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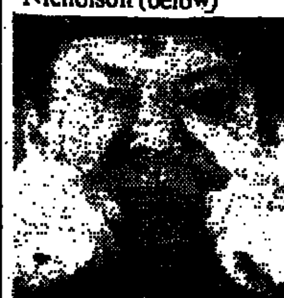
TUESDAY MARCH 6 1984

20p



Tomorrow

Jack the lad
Nicholas Wapshott introduces the real Jack Nicholson (below)



In sickness
Nicholas Timmins reports on the cloud hanging over the health service

Up for the Cup
Preview of the European cup football matches

Gold canter
Trevor Fishlock in Calgary where the gold rush has slowed to a canter

56,000 miners to strike over closure of pits

● **Yorkshire's 56,000 miners have been called out on strike from Monday to protest at the closure of two pits near Barnsley and Rotherham**

● **A manager was injured by a stone thrown from a picket line at Yorkshire Main Colliery during an attempt to relieve a maintenance crew**

● **Mr Ian MacGregor, the coal board chairman, will meet the National Union of Mineworkers' executive today to appeal for an end to their overtime ban.**

● **A select committee has criticized the board and Department of Energy for their reaction to a growth in claims for subsidence damage to buildings, page 2**

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

About 29,000 miners were idle yesterday mainly in Yorkshire, after union leaders called an all-out strike from Monday to protest at pit closures. The dispute could spread to other coalfields.

At the centre of a series of walkouts and lay-offs was a dispute at Yorkshire Main Colliery, near Doncaster, where stones were thrown at a management team trying to relieve a maintenance crew which had been down the pit for several hours. After the pickets refused to lift their blockade, the National Coal Board said it had abandoned the pit.

The mine, where 1,400 men work, is prone to spontaneous combustion and could flood quickly unless maintenance crews are allowed back to operate underground fans. The NCB said last night that the pit's future was in serious danger, as were the miners' jobs.

The worsening of industrial relations came on the eve of today's meeting between the unions and Mr Ian MacGregor, coal board chairman, when the board is expected to call for further reductions in capacity leading to more pit closures.

Afterwards Mr MacGregor is to meet the National Union of Mineworkers' executive when he will call for an end to their four-month overtime ban, which he said yesterday was "seriously jeopardizing" the industry's future.

The coal board said Yorkshire Main's deputy engineer was hit in the face yesterday morning by a stone thrown from the picket line. He needed three stitches.

Mr MacGregor, who was attending a Coal Industry Society lunch in London, said outbreaks of violence in the industry were "rather sad because they indicate there are problems within the union that are not being dealt with by the people who run the union."

He insisted that the 5.2 per cent pay offer would not be increased and suggested that the NUM should ballot members on the offer, there was serious damage being done to the industry and miners had lost almost £70m in wages from the ban he said.

Mr MacGregor intends to threaten to withdraw backdating of the 5.2 per cent offer to November in the hope of persuading moderates on the executive to push for an early ballot, but there are few indications that this strategy will succeed.

Lancashire area union officials will press for a tightening up or increase of the action because of the prospect of the closure of two pits in the area. Yorkshire miners will argue that their strike on Monday should be made official when the executive meets in Sheffield on Thursday.

The Yorkshire area council decided to call out all 56,000 miners over the closure in April of Cortonwood Colliery, near Rotherham and Bullcliffe Wood pit, near Barnsley. Mr Jack Taylor, area president, said they would call for other coalfields to join the strike and appeal to other unions for support.

"We intend to stop them butchering our industry and our jobs. Cortonwood is being closed on economic grounds, but it has the best coal in south Yorkshire and has at least five years life left.

"We have always said that if they close a Yorkshire pit on economic grounds, we will take action," Mr Taylor said.

About 20,000 miners were idle in Yorkshire yesterday, with 9,000 on strike; 4,000 laid off because of the closures; 4,000 laid off because of the strike and 6,500 not able to work because of the national overtime ban's effects.

Nationally, a further 9,000 miners were unable to work as essential maintenance work which could not be done over the weekend, was carried out. Mr MacGregor said that the ban was having little effect on coal stocks at power stations but was persuading other customers to look abroad for supplies.

He said that the industry would need a deficit grant from the Government of £600m at the end of this month and could not afford an increased offer.

Today's meeting of the Joint Policy Advisory Committee is being held in the hope of finding sufficient agreement between the three unions and the board to allow a joint approach to the Government. Mr MacGregor is expected to say that a reduction in capacity of about four million tonnes would have to be pushed through in the next year.

It is thought unlikely that Mr MacGregor will threaten to cancel backdating of the offer today. But there is little doubt that his message will be gloomy.

Mr Scargill will maintain that further contraction of the industry proves his claim that

Continued on back page, col 4



Testing the EEC air: Mrs Thatcher meeting President Mitterrand at RAF Benson, Oxfordshire, yesterday

US attacks Iraqi use of chemical weapons

**From Mohsin Ali
Washington**

The United States yesterday accused Iraq of using chemical weapons in its war with Iran and condemned resort to them as being without justification.

In a prepared statement the State Department said: "The US has concluded that the available evidence indicates that Iraq has used lethal chemical weapons. The US strongly condemns the prohibited use of chemical weapons wherever it occurs. There can be no justification for their use by any country."

The statement emphasized that the US had been working for many years with other nations to established a treaty banning production and stockpiling of lethal chemical weapons in order to strengthen the present international prohibition of their use.

"The use of chemical weapons in recent conflicts, including the Iran-Iraq war, only adds to the urgency of this undertaking," the statement said.

It added: "While condemning Iraq's resort to chemical weapons, the US also calls on the Government of Iran to accept the good offices offered by a number of countries and international organizations to put an end to the bloodshed."

The State Department went on to criticize the present Iranian regime's "intransigent refusal to deviate from its avowed objective of eliminating the legitimate Government of neighbouring Iraq". Such an aim was inconsistent with the accepted norms of behaviour among nations, it said.

**Test on body, page 6
Science report, page 16**

Thatcher show will be kept on the road, says Biffen

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons, said last night that ministers would have to be on their guard against political accidents which could undermine the Government.

Against a background of growing unease on the Conservative backbenches and a feeling that the Government was losing its sense of direction, Mr Biffen told *The Times*: "I am quite certain that the Thatcher show can be kept firmly on the road."

Whitehall sources yesterday reacted with characteristic unconcern to the weekend criticism of Mr Edward du Cann, chairman of the Conservative backbench 1922 Committee.

One central source reported that ministers were relaxed, that they were not taking Mr du Cann's interview too seriously, [illegible] was being exaggerated and that yesterday's newspapers represented British journalism at its worst.



But Mr Biffen appeared to be far more alive to the dangers. He said: "I think that the warning of the early 1960s was that a series of essentially non-economic issues seriously undermined the standing of the Conservative Government and also the standing of Harold Macmillan as Prime Minister.

"Therefore, those of us who live with some sense of history are naturally concerned to avoid that happening in this Parliament, particularly when it looks as though there will be a degree of economic recovery over the next two or three years, in contrast to the recession which we weathered in the last Parliament."

Mr Biffin said that "vigilance" would be needed, and added: "I think the Conservative Party and the Conservative Government will have to understand that it operates within a sharper general climate as far as the media is concerned.

"The existance of a large majority is thought, I think wrongly, to give rise to a sense of over-confidence.

"In order to combat that I think you have to have a special vigilance as far as far as side issues are concerned, which could turn into matters of quite sharp political embarrassment.

"No one can predict where these will occur, and often they are simply unavoidable, in which case the requriement is a keen sense of damage limitation."

As for his own backbenchers, Mr Biffen said: "I would have thought that for many of them, this will be the first time that they have come into a situation of some shock and shell.

Continued on back page, col 5

Mitterrand leaves Chequers in silence

**By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent**

The latest French proposals to pull back the EEC from the brink of bankruptcy were placed before Mrs Margaret Thatcher by President Mitterrand of France over a working lunch at Chequers yesterday.

But there was no sign of a deal last night as the President hurried home to Paris, with the crucial make-or-break Brussels summit less than two weeks off.

He gave nothing away as he left – nor did the officials on either side who were even more than usually impenetrable. "We must maintain absolute confidence," one said.

Before the President and the Prime Minister was a package of compromises, parcelled by the French Government after a series of bilateral consultations with other members of the Ten since France took over the presidency of the European Coucil for six months at the turn of the year.

Britain is refusing even to consider a plan to raise more funds for the impoverished Community, until two of its own demands have been met.

One of these is for tight controls over agricultural spending and the other is for a so-called safetynet which would limit the annual contributions of any one country.

President Mitterrand was reportedly bringing to Chequers a proposal which would go some way towards pegging the British contribution at between 17 and 20 per cent of the Community budget. But this was thought unlikely to satisfy Mrs Thatcher.

Freedom offer to Mandela

Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC leader serving a life sentence in South Africa, has been offered his freedom if he agrees to live in Transkei, according to family friends. His wife is expected to put the offer when she visits him this week in Pollsmoor Prison near Cape Town **Page 5**

Ship inquiry

A French warship said help was not needed as it attended a sinking freighter in the English Channel, but 16 seamen drowned, an inquiry was told **Page 3**

Mondale test

Mr Walter Mondale, humiliated by Senator Gerry Hart in New Hampshire and Maine, today faces a third test in the Vermont primary **Page 6**

'Thin Man' dies

William Powell, the film star of the 1930s and 1940s, who played the wise-cracking detective in the *Thin Man* series, has died in California, aged 91 **Obituary, page 16**

SDP rethink

The Social Democrats may change their minds for choosing by-election candidates to make it easier for "star" politicians to stand **Page 2**

Perfect launch

The European space rocket Ariane made a perfect launch to put the world's biggest telecommunications satellite into orbit **Page 8**

Gulf bids

Trading in Gulf Oil's stock was suspended in New York as the board met to consider possible bids worth as much as £10,000m **Page 32**

Sales fall

Retail sales dropped by 3 per cent in January, giving shops their worst month since last summer **Page 17**

Boats collide

Dhaka (AP) – Fifty people were feared dead in a collision between a cargo boat and a passenger launch carrying more than 300 people at Naotola near Keshoreganj, about 125 miles east of Dhaka.

Toshack goes

John Toshack, the Swansea City manager, has left the club for the second time this season. He was dismissed yesterday after refusing to resign **Page 26**

Police move informer from jail

**By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter**

The security guard jailed last month for his role in the £26m Brinks-Mat robbery in November has been moved secretly from jail to police custody with a 24-hour armed guard while he waits to give Queen's Evidence.

Anthony Black, aged 31, of Ashford, Kent, was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court to six years after the judge was told he had confessed to helping the robbers and had turned informer.

The court was told that Black could be attacked and Commander Frank Cater, head of the Flying Squad, said he preferred him to be placed in police custody.

After sentence, however, Black was taken to jail and is believed to have remained there for some time.

The police and the Home Office are believed to have conferred over arrangements for Black, and yesterday Mr Cater confirmed: "We have got hin in our custody and that is really all there is to say about it."

In the past informers have been held in London police stations under fairly relaxed internal regimes, and the Flying squad is equipped for dealing with a prisoner as much at risk as Black.

1,000 new computer jobs for Scotland

**From Ronald Faux,
Glasgow**

A £100m investment by the American company National Semiconductor that will create 1,000 new jobs at the electronic company's factory in Greenock was announced yesterday.

Welcoming the news, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, said the development was the largest single electronic investment to come to Scotland. It would make the Greenock plant one of the largest, most technologically advanced semiconductor manufacturers in the world.

Mr George Younger: Welcomed investment

The announcement was also welcomed in the town of Greenock, where more than 3,000 jobs are at risk at the troubled Scott Lithgow shipyard on the lower Clyde. National Semiconductor said the development would make Greenock the world's first "meaningful" production centre for four-inch, five-inch and six-inch semiconductor wafers, the raw material for silicon chips.

Mr Manuel Yuen, managing director of the company's British operation, told a press conference in Glasgow that the investment was being made in lasting technology that would be used for the next generation of the company's products.

The investment will increase the company's work force at Greenock to 2,500 by 1987, equalling the size of the IBM plant in the town, and tripling present production at the factory by 1989.

The project confirms Scotland's position as a "silicon glen" of microcomputing, with some 300 firms established in the electronics sector alone. It is estimated that more than half of America's leading 20 electronics companies now have manufacturing facilities in Scotland.

Recent successes have included Wang (a £40m project), NEC (a £40m factory), IBM (a £10m expansion to its long-established Scottish operations), SCI Systems of Alabama (which is to set up in the next year and provide components to the computer industry), and the Japanese company, Shin-Etse, which a fortnight ago announced plans for a £30m factory to manufacture pure silicon in Scotland.

Pilot on murder charge over body in lake

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Mr Peter Hogg, an airline pilot aged 56, was charged last night with the murder of his wife Margaret, after the discovery of a body in a lake in Cumbria last week.

Mrs Hogg was aged 37 when she vanished in 1976. She was a former air hostess who opened a restaurant with the help of her husband near their home in Cranleigh, Surrey. They had two sons, now aged 18 and 14.

Inquiries into Mrs Hogg's disappearance were revived after a body, reportedly wrapped in carpet and weighted with a concrete kerbstone, was found by police searching Wast Water, the deepest lake in England, for a missing French student.

Mr Hogg, who works for Air Europe, on Boeing 707 charter flights from Gatwick to European resorts, is to appear before magistrates at Guildford today. The charge alleges that he killed his wife between January 1 and February 29, 1976.

Mr Hogg flew for Court Line which collapsed in 1974. At the time he was on a stopover in Canada with one of the company's jets.

Israeli anger as Gemayel tears up treaty

**From Robert Fisk
Beirut**

Israel's last hopes of any tangible benefits from its 1982 invasion of Lebanon were finally crushed yesterday when President Amin Gemayel tore up his country's unofficial peace treaty with Tel Aviv.

His statement issued officially after an extraordinary meeting of the virtually defunct Lebanese Cabinet, said that the unratified May 17th military withdrawal agreement with Israel would henceforth be considered "null and void", an announcement that immediately incurred the bitter condemnation of the Israelis themselves.

Mr Gemayel's decision, which will probably be consecrated at a second Lebanese reconciliation conference in Geneva as early as next week, was widely expected after his visit to President Assad of Syria last Wednesday.

But the Israelis, whose jets staged two separate air raids against Druze-held mountain towns outside Beirut during the day, bitterly denounced the abrogation of the treaty and accused Syria of using violence "to bring Lebanon to its knees".

President Gemayel: bowed to Syrian demands

In Damascus, an exuberant President Assad telephoned President Gemayel to congratulate him om what he described as "a victory for the Lebanese and Syrian people". Syria, Mr Assad said, had "deep brotherly ties" with Lebanon and would always stand by the country's sovreignty and unity.

But within the Lebanese Christian Maronite community last night there appeared to be serious divisions, with the political leadership accepting Mr Gemayel's decision while the military leadership angrily condemned it and rejected any Syrian-sponsored initiatives in Lebanon. The latter may even include a Syrian-arranged ceasefire that came into effect in Beirut yesterday.

The Israelis invaded Lebanon ostensibly to fight Palestinian guerrillas in the south of the country, but they are now locked into an apparently hopeless guerrilla war in southern Lebanon, not against Palestinians but against hostile Lebanese Shia Muslim guerrillas. President Gemayel promised yesterday that his Government would "ensure sovereignty, security and stability in southern Lebanon, prevent infiltration across the southern border, and bring about the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Lebanese territory".

Israel's response was to conclude that Lebanon was incapable of fulfilling her international obligations and of preventing south Lebanon once again being turned into a terrorist base". Israel, an official statement said in Jerusalem, would "determine the best way to ensure its security".

Many Lebanese Christians now fear that Israel will partition Lebanon and settle down to a permanent occupation of the south of the country, though government officials here hint that the Israelis may withdraw soon from the Awali river, abandon their control of Sidon, and form a new front line along the southern bank of the Zahrani river.

Unless the Israelis leave Lebanon altogether, however, the Syrians will undoubtedly encourage the Shia Muslims of the south to go on fighting their occupiers, thus turning Lebanon into even more of a nightmare for the Army that invaded it 20 months ago.

The wheel has now moved full circle. When Israeli troops still occupied much of the territory round Beirut last year, Lebanon signed its troop withdrawal accord with Israel. Lebanese Muslims, claimed that Mr Gemayel had surrendered to the Israelis when he gave his approval. Now, with Syria's Druze and Shia Muslim Lebanese allies threatening the President's very palace, Lebanon has thrown out the same agreement and the Israelis believe Mr Gemayel has surrendered to the Syrians by tearing it up.

The immediate future will almost certainly see a reconvened Geneva reconciliation conference that will endorse the end of Lebanon's relations with Israel and offer, in however muted a form, some kind of security guarantees in southern Lebanon. There is unlikely to be any forthcoming promise from Syria that it will withdraw its own Army from Lebanon.

In the longer term – though perhaps it is only a matter of a few months away – Israel and Syria may come into open war in Lebanon while the minority Christians who support the Phalange, Israel's erstwhile allies, will feel ever more alienated from their own country.

Minister seeks £15m cut in health service transport costs

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities are being asked to save £15m a year from the costs of providing NHS transport other than ambulances.

In addition, ministers are considering ending NHS staff loans to buy cars, and replacing them with low-interest loans negotiated with the leasing subsidiaries of leading British car manufacturers. That would release £20m for patient services.

Ministers are also to consider providing small cars on the NHS for staff who travel large mileages, instead of paying them expenses. That should save a minimum of another £15m over three years.

The moves were announced yesterday by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, with the publication of a Rayner scrutiny on Health authorities' use of transport.

The study which covered all forms of transport from stores and laundry delivery vehicles, to buses, vans, taxis and staff use of cars, found that about 1,500 of the NHS's 6,000 vehicles were not needed.

Large expensive vehicles often travelled virtually empty, the study found, and money was wasted on higher priced fuel in place of cheaper NHS supplies at ambulance stations.

A taxi firm was altering its dockets to increase waiting-time charges, while one authority was paying nearly a fifth more for a taxi service than another authority in the same city using the same firm.

The report suggested that maintenance could be undertaken more cheaply by specialist companies and argued that savings of between 10 per cent and more than 25 per cent could be made on each use of NHS transport.

Mr Fowler said: "I expect to see substantial evidence of progress towards the national saving of £15m a year in the reports due from regional health authorities next year".

● Leaders of Britain's 250,000 NHS ancillary workers have tabled a claim for pay rises of more than 20 per cent, a shorter working week and longer holidays. It comes as the Government has allowed only 3 per cent in health authorities budgets for pay rises in the coming year.

BL decline could cost 100,000 jobs

By Craig Seton

A further 100,000 jobs could be lost in The West Midlands if BL went into terminal decline, but 4,000 new jobs could be created by Austin Rover alone if the right policies are pursued, report on the car component industry suggests.

The report, to be published tomorrow, will be presented to the economic Development Committee of West Midlands County Council. It says that changing technology, demand fluctuations and sacrifices by BL's workforce in recent years, have created an opportunity for it not only to survive, but to increase its share of the market.

The report, which highlights recent changes and future prospects for the West Midlands automobile components industry, has been prepared by the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University.

It says BL must increase its market share by new funding for the development of a new engine and transmission and quates Mr Jack Adams, trade union convener at Longbridge, as saying that unless that happens, "all we will be left with is robots assembling imported kits and components".

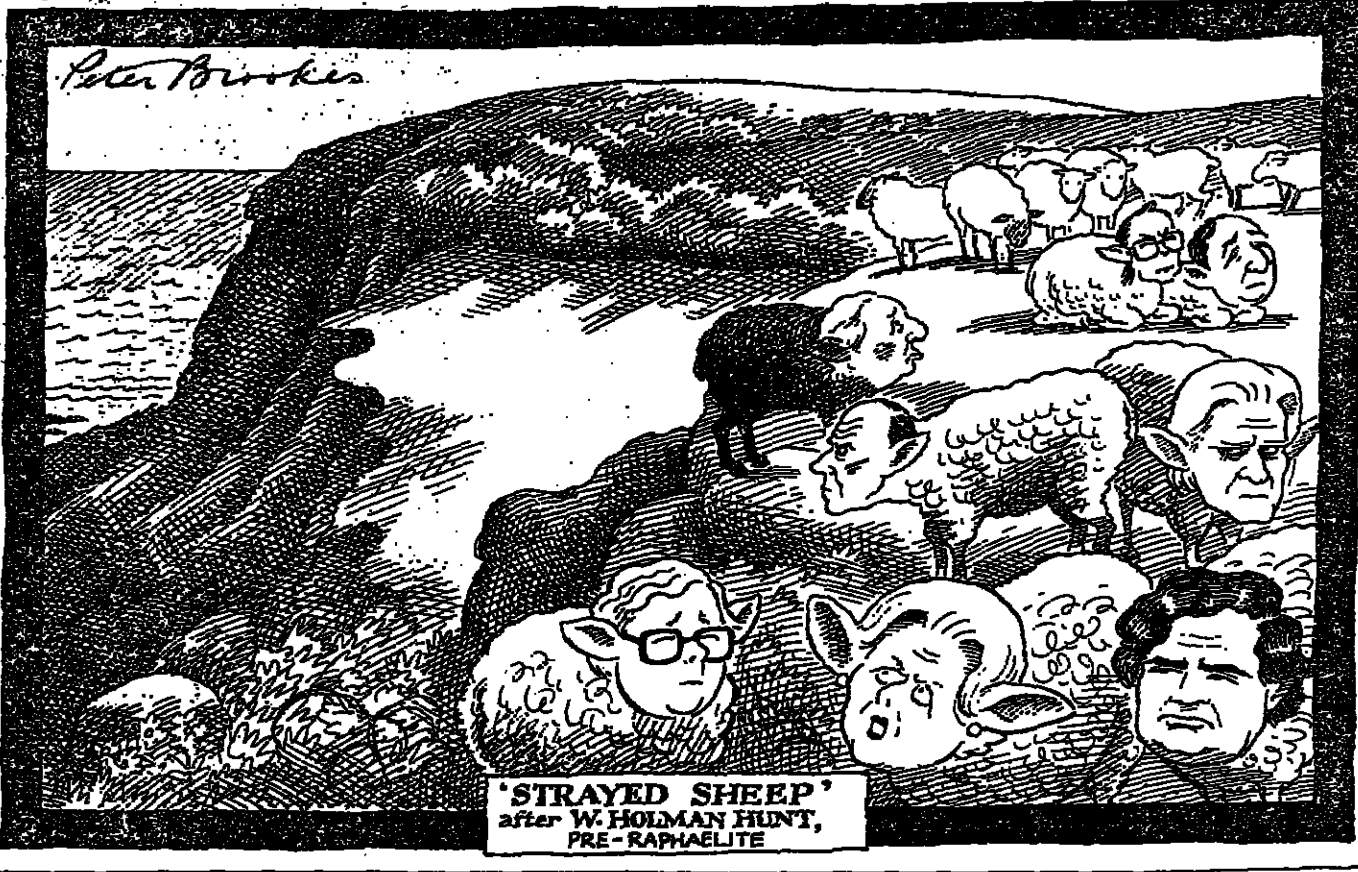
It also gives a warning that for every additional one per cent of parts bought abroad by Austin Rover, the West Midlands will lose 1,400 jobs.

Mr Geoffrey Edge, chairman of the committee said: "If present policies and trends continue, 71,000 jobs will be lost in the West Midlands as a result of demise of Austin Rover.

"If Jaguar, and Land-Rover are included, the potential job loss is over 100,000. If policies are changed and the oportunity seized, the Austin Rover group alone could create 4,000 jobs.

The report says that BL's difficulties, and those of the component industry are not caused by the depression as the demand for vehicles in Britain topped one million last year for the first time since 1979.

The job loss was simply the result of the restructuring of multinational companies for which the West Midlands was once the heartland.



Thatcher blocks questions on son

By Julian Haviland
Political Editor

The Prime Minister again gave a blocking answer yesterday to a question from the Opposition Front Bench about the Oman univerity contract which has been given to the Cementation construction company for which her son, Mark, acted.

Mr Bryan Gould, a Labour spokesman on trade and industry, asked Mrs Margaret Thatcher from whom she first learned of Cementation's interest in the project, in which she pressed Britain's interest while visiting Oman in 1981.

In a written Commons answer yesterday Mrs Thatcher said she had nothing to add to an answer she gave last week, in which she said there was no record of when she first learned of Cementation's interest in the contract or of her son's interest in Cementation's negotiations.

Mr Gould, with Mr Peter Shore, Labour's principal spokesman on trade and industry, has been trying to establish whether it can or cannot be assumed that the Prime Minister, in raising the contract with the Omanis, was promoting Cementation's interests.

Mr Gould said yesterday that Labour meant to pursue this point, on which Mrs Thatcher had twice avoided answering questions by referring to previous answers, on different aspects of the matter.

Mr Gould said there had been no pretence of answering his question yesterday. It showed the lengths to which the Prime Minister was prepared to go to avoid replying to questions on the matter.

● Barclays Bank yesterday began an internal inquiry to discover how details of a bank account operated by Mr Mark Thatcher were leaked to *The Sunday Times* (the Press Association reports).

The newspaper claimed on Sunday to have found that Mrs Thatcher's husband Denis was authorized last year to sign cheques for the Monteagle Marketing company which Mr Mark Thatcher co-founded.

The newspaper gave details of Mr Mark Thatcher's bank account, including its number

Union poll candidate denies defeat claim

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

A leading contender in the election for the general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union last night denied left-wing claims that he was facing defeat by 100,000 votes.

Mr George Wright, the unions Welsh regional secretary, who has the backing of the right, said that the claims were wild rubbish.

"I know what is happening on the ground and we are winning. I think there is more than a hint of desperation in these claims."

The voting projection was made by supporters of Mr Ron Todd, the union's national organizer, who is the other leading candidate in the election to find a successor to Mr Moss Evans. They said that they had based their prediction on an analysis of branches which were known to have nominated the two men.

But Mr Wright said last night that he expected to have about 600 nominations rather than the 153 on which the left's analysis was based. The full list of candidates is expected to be handed to the candidates this week and will be presented to the union executive next Monday.

The Todd camp said that its candidate had the backing of big branches which had a history of high voting in previous elections, while Mr Wright's support came mainly from smaller branches, a large proportion of them in his home base of Wales.

Mr Wright disputes this and said last night that he also had the support of big branches. "I would be quite happy to have the numbers of nominations published and then we shall be able to see who is really ahead.

"There is no doubt that we are winning the argument on the ground and the support from the hard left for Todd is floundering. Their claims are ridiculous", Mr Wright said in Stoke-on-Trent during a campaigning tour of the Midlands.

Whitehall brief

When civil servants take business posts

By Peter Hennessy

The battle lines on the issue of senior civil servants taking business appointments have been drawn less than a week after the all-party Commons committee on the Treasury and Civil Service opened its hearings.

The number of would-be businessmen leaving the top three Whitehall grades – which includes about 700 permanent, deputy and under-secretaries – has almost doubled in the 1980s Those who left all submitted themselves to the voluntary screening system operated by an advisory committee chaired by Lord Diamond, the former Labour Cabinet minister.

There are no precise figures on the number of requests that have been rejected by the committee, but flat refusals are rare. Some officials have varying spells in purdah on the committee's recommendation. However, one civil servant, Sir John Garlick, doubled the standard three-month gap between retirement and a new job on his own initiative.

Several Conservative and Labour MPs on the select committee want tougher legally enforced rules as is the case in the United States. Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, although impartial while chairing the investigation, has been an outspoken critic of the present system outside the committee room.

However, former civil servants now in business have struck back. Sir Frank Cooper, the former Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence (now Babcock International, N M Rothschild, Morgan Crucible, and Westland Helicopters) has said that public servants "have got amazingly high standards in today's British world of morality and ethics ... much higher in some ways than one is almost entitled to expect".

Sir Donald Maitland, the former Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Energy (now a government appointed director of Britoil and director of Slough Estates), believes that the use of Whitehall experience to reinforce successful British companies can only benefit the wider national interest.

The select committee's concentration on the private sector appointments of the very top officials obscures the general picture. Some of the most senior civil servants go into academic life

Many do voluntary service as well as their business work. An increasing number of those leaving are from the middle ranks which is almost universally regarded as beneficial.

Examples of outside appointments of senior civil servants leaving Whitehall since 1980

LORD BANCROFT, Head of the Home Civil Service, 1981: Non-executive director Bass, Rugby Portland Cement, Grindlays Bank, Sun Life Assurance, Chairman of the Council, Mansfield College, Oxford. Management Board of the Royal Hospital & Home for incurables.
SIR DOUGLAS WASS, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, 1983: Head of Economic Strategy Unit, Coopers Lybrand, non-executive director De la Rue, Equity & Law, adviser to the 1984 Campaign for Freedom of Information.
SIR MICHAEL PALLISER, Head of the Diplomatic Service, 1982: Vice-chairman Samuel Montagu, chairman of the International Institute of Strategic Studies, chairman of International Social Services, member security commission, non-executive director United Biscuits, Shell Transport & Trading, Booker McConnell & Eagle Star Holdings.
SIR PATRICK NAIRNE, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health & Social Security, 1981: Master of St Catherine's College, Oxford, chairman Society of Italic Handwriting, trustee National Maritime Museum, member Royal Council on Art.
SIR KENNETH CLUCAS, Permanent Secretary, Department of Trade, 1981: Member Council on Tribunals, chairman Nuffield Foundation on pharmacy, non-executive director Gestetner Holdings, Careras Rothman, Vice Chairman National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux.
SIR PETER CAREY, Permanent Secretary, Department of Industry, 1983: Government director Cable and Wireless, executive director Morgan Grenfell Holdings, non-executive director BPB Industries, Dalgety.
SIR JOHN GARLICK, Permanent Secretary, Department of the Enviroment, 1981: Director Abbey National Building Society, member London Docklands Development Corporation.
MR JOHN LIPPITT, Deputy Secretary, Department of Industry, 1980: Associate director, GEC.
SIR BRIAN TOVEY, Director GCHQ 1983: Security consultant, Plessey.

Britain invited to join US plan for space station

An invitation to Britain to join in the £8,000m United States project for a permanently manned space station was extended to the Government yesterday (Pearce Wright writes).

The offer was made to ministers and government scientific advisers by Mr James Begg, administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, at the start of a mission which will take him to other European capitals and to Japan.

The decision to start development of a manned space station, which would be in place by the end of the decade was announced recently by President Reagan.

The space station could contain permanent laboratories, astronomical observatories, and a repair facility for satellites.

Strike to go on at Dimbleby paper group

The nine journalists on strike at Mr David Dimbleby's newspaper group yesterday reaffirmed their decision to stay out, despite a decision by the House of Lords last week stopping their union's executive from backing them

Miss Joanna Davies, mother (chairman) of the chapel (office branch) of the National Union of Journalists, said yesterday: "The feeling of the chapel is that nothing has been changed by the House of Lords decision."

The executive of the union voted last Friday against a move to make the dispute at the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* series official and to risk the possibility of the union's funds being sequestrated, as happened in the case of the National Graphical Association.

Anglicans urged to back a free Namibia

By Colin Hughes

The international Anglican Communion was urged yesterday to throw its "world wide influence" behind pressure for Namibian independence and the withdrawal of South African forces.

The report, by six leading Anglicans from Britain, the United States, Japan and South Africa, concludes that no democratic settlement can be reached without incorporating the guerrilla organization, Swapo.

It says: "Swapo has overwhelming support, not least from the main-line churches and their leaders".

The South African Government is criticized for its 18-year "ilegal occupation" of Namibia, and the authors find a "disturbing and profound scepticism" among Namibians about the international diplomatic community's will to implement the United Nations resolution calling for independence.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, who received the report agreed to visit Namibia as soon as his timetable allows, but that may not be for another two yeas.

The Rt Rev James Thompson, Bishop of Stepney, the one of the delegates who spent two weeks in the northern war zone last October, expected the report to stimulate financial and moral support.

"We hope the network of churches will begin to operate, so that a real stand is made for what justice demands in Namibia," he said yesterday.

Three dioceses in the United States have promised £360,000 for education, medical and indusirial projects, and the Diocese of Hawaii has tithed 10 per cent of its income to Namibian development. The bishop lamented the comparitive difficulty of persuading the Church of England to accept its financial responsibility to the Third World.

An administrator leaves within the next month to assist the Bishop of Namibia, the Rt Rev James Kauluma.

Toivo interview, page 5

SDP may change selection rules

By Our Political Editor

The Social Democrats are to consider changing their rules for choosing by-election candidates so as to make it easier for star performers to be fielded in important contests.

The proposed change, which the SDP's national committee will be asked to approve next week, will mean that in future all prospective candidates will be selected on the basis that their political fitness will be reconsidered if a by-election occurs.

Mr Mike Thomas, former SDP MP for Newcastle East and chairman of the party's organization committee, said yesterday it was crucial for the party to ensure that it had the best candidates for by-elections. There was no reason why a good general election candidate should necessarily also be able to handle the special pressures of a by-election.

There are positive and negative reasons for Mr Thomas's proposal, which has been canvassed within the SDP national committee for some time.

The negative reason is the wish to ensure that a weak or unsuitable candidate can be painlessly removed before his shortcomings are exposed to the exceptional glare of a by-election campaign.

The party has uncomfortable memories of the Darlington by-election a year ago, when their pleasant but inexperienced standard-bearer, Mr Tony Cook, seemed to lose support throughout the campaign and finished third.

The positive reason is the party's belief that Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr William Rodgers, members of the founding gang of four, may be willing to fight again if the right seat falls vacant; and that there are seats which only figures of comparable calibre are likely to win.

The SDP as well as the Liberals are intensely aware of the value to their joint cause of good by-election performances

MPs unconvinced by spending White Paper

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Government plans to hold public spending in check have been greeted with scepticism by the influential all-party Treasury select committee.

In a report published on the eve of today's Commons debate on the latest public spending White Paper, the MPs point out that state spending has "regularly and significently" exceeded planning targets. We see nothing in the White Paper to convince us that a similar pattern of events will not unfold", the committee says.

The Government's plans, which envisage spending rising no faster than prices between now and 1986-87, are in marked contrast to the experience of the past five years, the report states. Between 1978-79 and 1983-84 spending has risen by 7 per cent more than prices, even on the Government's figures.

But when adjusted for changes in the treatment of housing and sickness benefits, reduced national insurance surcharge, sales of state assets and debt interest, spending has risen by 12.3 per cent, or about 25 per cent a year, according to the committee.

The report singles out for criticism official projections showing a big drop in local authority spending and government support for state industries. It says it does not see how the suggested turnround in industry finances can be achieved without substantial price rises, although ministers deny that.

The MPs also complain that they are not being given enough information about the government's views on the economy in the years ahead.

Wages councils split both employers and unions

By Rupert Morris

A Nottingham corner shop recently was employing a woman who was prepared to work a certain number of hours a week for a modest wage. The wage was below the statutory minimum set by the industry's wages council, and the wages inspectorate told the employer he would have to pay the legal minimum.

The employer decided he could not affrd it, and the woman lost her job.

Chambers of commerce throughout Britain tell similar stories supporting their argument that wages councils, most of them formed many years agoto protect those in extremely low-wage industries, are now reducing job opportunities.

That view, supported by self-employed groups and other small businesses, appears to be finding increasing favour with the Government.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has no love for wages councils. Twice last year he was snubbed by them, first with a 6 per cent settlement for 120,000 snack bar workers, then with a 7.3 per cent award for 550,000 hotel and restaurant staff – both in the face of Government efforts to keep pay rises to 3 per cent.

He said then that such settlements would price people out of jobs.

The Labour Party and TUC, on th other hand, both believe wages councils are doing a valuable job. It was not always so.

In 1977 the Road Haulage Wages Council was abolished despite employers' protests. There have been many other examples of unions believing that wages councils operated to the benefit of employers, and that collective bargaining would achieve more.

In 1980 the Low Pay Unit, now a vociferous defender of wages councils, attacked them for failure to prevent low pay among women.

Today the Confederation of British Industry is apparently undecided whether they are desirable.

Wages councils were started by Sir Winston Churchill in 1909 to eliminate "sweat shops". They now cover nearly three million workers in industries where union organization remains weak and wages low, such as clothing and textile manufacture, catering.

Although trade unionists have had reservations about participating in a process whose benefits go largely to workers outside unions, they have supported them as being better than nothing.

When trade unionism was in the ascendant in the 1960s and 1970s, most of the criticism came from the unions. Under Mrs Thatcher's Conservative Government, there has been a mounting chorus of complaint from the employers.

Mr Jack Taylor, president of the Yorkshire miners in Barnsley yesterday telling miners of the decision to strike from next Monday in protest at pit closures.

Commons critical of coal board

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The National Coal Board and the Department of Energy were criticized yesterday by a committee of MPs for being too slow to react to the emergence of a "thriving growth industry" in compensation claims for subsidence damage to buildings.

Such claims will cost the board £128m more this year than forecast, about £113m of the extra cost being in the north Nottinghamshire coalfield, mainly in Mansfield.

The Select Committee on Energy reported that the number and size of claims over the past year could not be explained by change in geological conditions.

After referring to the evidence of Mr Ian MacGregor, the coal board chairman, and Mr Don Concannon, Labour MP for Mansfield, that the claims "business" was being exploited by surveyors, the committee voiced concern at the implication that the board had been taken by surprise.

Mr MacGregor told the committee he was sure the board was being "taken for a ride".

Mr Concannon said that "certain gentlemen in and around Mansfield" were advertising in the local paper to help householders with their claims. One pit, which had a profit of £13m last year, had made a loss this year because of claims.

The committee said estimates of economic reserves at some pits might have to be reduced if less coal were to be extracted

It said: "We find it difficult to understand why the board, and through them the Department of Energy, did not become aware of the growth of the problem at a much earlier stage and why they did not take appropriate action before further large sums of public money had been committed."

Exercise tests air defences

By Rodney Courton
Defence Correspondent

Aircraft from nine nations will be locked in combat until tomorrow evening in a test to see whether Britain can be adequately defended against air attack.

The exercise, codenamed Elder Forest 84, will produce some of the most intensive military flying over Britain since the Second World War.

It began yesterday and concentrated mainly on reconnaissance flights and patrols. Over three days more than 900 sorties will be flown by about 200 aircraft to simulate attacks on RAF stations and radar and missile sites.

The British defences wil be reinforced by United States and Danish aircraft.

The exercise will involve most types of RAF aircraft, including Phantoms and Lightnings carrying out interceptions, Vulcan and Victor tankers providing air-to-air refuelling, Shackleton aircraft carrying out long-range patrols to identify enemy attacks, and Hawk trainer aircraft providig short-range defence.

Diplomat charged

Sir Peter Hayman, aged 69, a former diplomat, of Checkendon, Oxfordshire, appeared before Reading magistrates yesterday accused of committing an act of gross indecency with Leonard Beach, aged 35, a lorry driver, at a public place in Reading, Berkshire. Both were granted unconditional bail until May 16.

هكذا من الأصل

Sixteen seamen died after lifeboat told aid was not needed, inquiry hears

The Guernsey lifeboat put to sea in 35ft waves and saved nine of the twenty five crew of the freighter Radiant Med despite being told by a French warship that help was not required, an inquiry in London was told yesterday. The other 16 men were lost.

The investigation into the loss of the 2,997 ton Liberian freighter has come after demands from the National union of seamen, which has made complaints against the ship's owners.

The decision to hold the investigation in London under Mr Richard Stone, QC, is part of Liberia's policy of improving its image as official owner of the world's largest fleet.

An air/sea operation involving the Royal Navy, the fisheries protection vessel, Orkney, RAF and French helicopters and the French destroyer Casablanca, was involved in trying to save the Radiant Med's crew.

Mr Frank Wiswall, for the Liberian Admiralty, said that the Radiant Med was on passage from Ghent in Belgium to the Congo with 5,000 tons of grain. She capsized 18 miles off St Martin's Point, Guernsey, on January 24, and the crew, Filipino seamen and Indian officers, abandoned ship.

The inquiry was told that at about 11.45pm the Radiant Med fired a distress signal and the Casabianca was seen approaching. The final message sent to the Casabianca, saying that the Radiant Med was being abandoned, was at 01.13 hours.

Nine survivors in a lifeboat could see the lights of other vessels approaching, and one set of lights, which they took to be the Casabianca, came within 200 metres. After a time the Guernsey lifeboat, the Sir William Arnold, came alongside and the lifeboatmen dragged the nine survivors on board.

Mr Wiswall said that at one stage the Casabianca said it did not need lifeboat support. The last message from the Radiant Med, at 01.13 hours, said that the ship was going down "any time". At the same time the Casabianca assured the Radiant Med that it was just astern.

The inquiry was told that the Radiant Med was listing heavily and saying that it required immediate assistance, and the Guernsey lifeboat crew decided to launch the Sir William Arnold anyway.

The Radiant Med's chief mate Mr Subhas Singh Tanwar, said waves were washing the deck before the ship capsized. Two pontoons were dislodged and she shipped water through the gap. The hold was "absolutely full" of water.

The Casabianca said she was coming close with scrambling nets, but the Radiant Med went down very fast, he told the inquiry. He and 10 or 12 other men jumped in the water wearing life-jackets.

The Casabianca was very close and they expected her to come over. Eventually he was taken on board the Guernsey lifeboat.

The inqury continues today



Woolly winners: The winning three students in the Designed for Princess Diana hand-knitting competition wearing their sweaters in London yesterday. First prize went to Judith Watson (left), aged 31, of Epsom School of Art and Design; second was Karina Mrowiec (centre), aged 22, of Berkshire College of Art; and third Jane Hunter, aged 22, of Liverpool Polytechnic. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Computer company pledge on prices

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Apple Computer (UK), the British subsidiary of Apple Computer of the United States, which pioneered the personal computer, has been accused of attempting to fix a minimum for resale prices in shops.

Complaints of attempts at price-fixing have also been made against other computer manufacturers, the Office of Fair Trading said yesterday. So far its investigations have led only to action against Apple.

Sir Gordon Borris, Director-General of Fair Trading, said yesterday that Apple had given him written assurances that it would not attempt in future to maintain resale prices.

Apple is telling its retailers they are free to sell Apple systems at whatever price they choose.

The office acted after a retailer complained that Apple had withheld supplies because of his discounting.

Under the Resale Prices Act suppliers must make it a condition of supply that goods will not be sold below a specified price.

Manufacturers can suggest a retail price provided there is no implication that a dealer selling at a reduced price may suffer reprisals.

Since a new wave of personal computers has appeared price competition in the field has intensified

Apple in the United States reported sharply reduced earnings in the last quarter of 1983. The first half of this year is also likely to be affected and then profit margins are expected to improve.

IBM, a late entrant into the personal computer market, reduced its prices a few weeks ago.

Criticism of Law Society intensifies

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

The growing lobby for reforms in the way the Law Society handles complaints has been joined by the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, which handles 10,000 complaints about solicitors a year.

It is backing the call for an independent, lay element in the society's handling of complaints, after the internal Law Society report last week on the Glanville Davies affair.

The report had described as a disgrace the way the society had handled the case of Mr Davies, a solicitor who was struck off the roll for overcharging a client by £131,000.

The association also wants the society to have power to deal not only with proven professional misconduct, as at present, but with incompetence, and to have power to order compensation for aggrieved clients.

An article in the latest law Society *Gazette* says that the present remedies of negligence actions in the courts and the law Society's own investigatory powers "fail to provide adequate recourse for a substantial number of complaints about solicitors".

The association is backing the society's intention to seek increased statutory powers to handle complaints and urges it "actively to seek legislative time in the next parliamentary session".

But the author of the article, Mrs Barbara Stow, the association's legal services officer, says that this will not be sufficient. redress would be limited to reductions in fees and the correction of errors.

Self-policing professions, page 4

Changing times for rural readers

By Hugh Clayton

Advice about feeding trout and keeping mice out of the vegetable garden rubs shoulders with advertisements for country houses and shotguns in the latest issue of *The Field*. It is the last to be edited by Mr Derek Bingham, who left his office on Friday.

The latest issue reflects Mr Bingham's determination to keep the paper true to its 131-year-old tradition of speaking to the landed families of England. Sir Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union, is pictured in the latest issue in full hunting rig as chairman of the East Essex foxhounds.

That symbolises the appeal of the paper during Mr Bingham's editorship of almost seven years to a precisely defined but dwindling readership. *The Field* tells its readers not only about farming and field sports, but also about public schools, the turf and the politics of the Church of England.

Associated Newspapers which publishes *The Field* as well as the *Daily Mail*, has said nothing about Mr Bingham's departure. Sources at Harmsworth Press, the Associated subsidiary which publishes *The Field*, said at first that he was to be succeeded by Mr Simon McQorcodale.

But Mr Simon Courtauld, deputy editor of *The Spectator*



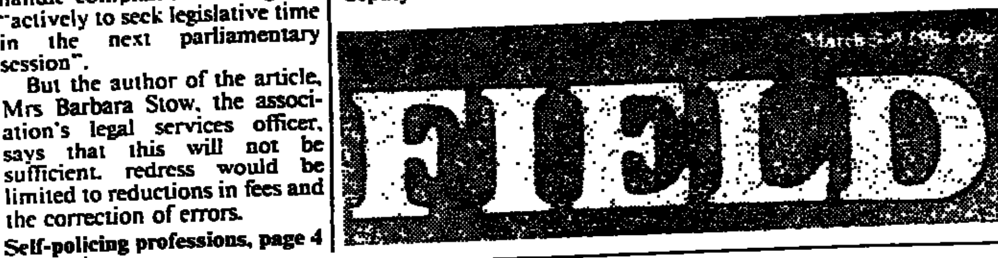
Mr Courtauld: Expects to take over in May.

and a former legal affairs correspondent of *The Times*, said yesterday that he was to become editor of *The Field* in May.

Mr Courtauld said yesterday that he wanted to broaden the appeal of his new paper for those who live in and those who like the countryside. "In general the idea is to make it bigger and better", he said.

The paper has an editorial staff of six and relies heavily on a small group of expert contributors who supply such regular features as hunting reports and Notes from the Potting Shed. Some contributors write under their own names and under pseudonyms

Like other magazines aiming at a rural readership, *The Field* has lost some of its market in recent years.



Don tipped as phones watchdog

By Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

The favoured candidate to head the office of Telecomunications, the watchdog of the telephone industry, has emerged as an academic – Professor Bryan Carsberg of the London School of Economics.

The new consumer body will operate in similar fashion to that of the Office of Fair Trading, responding to consumers' complaints. The agency will be created by the passage of the telecommunications Bill, which is making its way through Parliament.

No final decision on its director general has been made, but Professor Carsberg, an expert in accounting and business finance who has previously conducted telecommunication studies for the government, leads the short list.

It is still uncertain what powers which the director general of the agency will have, but he will be responsible for ensuring that a privately owned British Telecom, and other suppliers such as Mercury, adhere to the conditions laid down in their operating licences. The telecommunications Bill will also convert the state-owned telecommunications giant into a private company and empower the Government to sell off parts. The Government intends to sell 51 per cent of it in the autumn.

Man denies stealing rescue-alert beacon

A £99 radio distress beacon stolen from a North Sea gas rig caused an international search when it went wrong, Ipswich Crown Court was told yesterday.

Rescue helicopters were scrambled after "bleeps" from the beacon were picked up by a foreign space satellite.

It was only after a fruitless air-sea search that the source of the mystery signal was traced to a house in Erskine, Strathclyde, where the defective beacon was found lying on top of a wardrobe.

Leslie Brown, an engineer, aged 36, of Erskine, has pleaded not guilty to a charge of stealing the beacon.

Mrs Caroline Ludlow, for the prosecution, told the court that the pocket-sized warning divice was found to be missing from the Shell Echo rig last June, after Mr Brown had worked there for a week.

She said that the beacon developed a fault and began to transmit a VHF distress signal. It was picked up by a satellite and relayed to a "foreign power", which passed the information to the Royal Air Force.

After a search by Sea King helicopters the source of the signal was traced to Erskine and Mr Brown was seen after neighbours told the police that he kept a boat.

Phone help for heart victims

A telephone service to enable untrained people to help heart attack victims was launched in Avon yesterday.

Callers who dial 999 are told how to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation until an ambulance crew arrives. The advice is given by a telephone operator at an ambulance station, reading from a script.

The idea comes from Seattle, in the United States, where it increased the survival rate of heart victims. It can also help with drug overdoses.

Dr Peter Baskett, a consultant anaesthetist, who helped to write the script, said: "The victim of a heart attack will normally suffer brain damage within four minutes, so fast action can be a life-saver."

M6 repairs

A three-year renovation of 22 miles of the M6 between Broughton and Hampson Green in Lancashire will start within a week. The work will cost £15m.

Firm with summer camp at Harrow in liquidation

By John Witherow

A company set up an American-style summer camp at Harrow during the summer holidays has gone into liquidation, owing the public school about £50,000.

The company which attracted investment from wealthy Arab parents, organized elaborate sporting activities at the school which included go-karting, para-descending, water-skiing and riding.

Several hundred children attended the camp in 1982 and 1983 but the company, The International English School, or Ties Investments, lost £200,000 in 1982 and has gone into liquidation with an estimated deficiency to creditors and shareholders of £1.2m.

The former managing director, Mr Philip Barker, said that he had set up a new company to do similar work and wanted to run a summer camp at Harrow again this year.

He said that he was deeply distressed by the losses suffered by the creditors and shareholders and declared: "It is our avowed intention to repay creditors in one way or another

Shoe prices likely to rise

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Leather footwear prices are likely to rise soon by at least 5 per cent, the equivalent of £2.50 on a £50 pair of shoes.

The British Footwear Manufacturers Federation yesterday predicted the increase, which is blamed on a sharp rise in the costs of raw hides. In the five months to the end of January hide prices have increased by more than 44 per cent, with January showing a jump of nearly 47 per cent.

Hide prices account for about a quarter of the cost of an all leather shoe when it leaves the factory gate.

Some manufacturers have been stockpiling hides, so price rises could show through gradually in the shops, probably from spring to the autumn. There has also been some rise in prices of non-leather shoe materials, with an increase of 7.3 per cent over five months accelerating to 7.9 per cent in January.

Shop prices so far have moved little, according to the federation. In 12 months to the end of January prices rose by 1 per cent.

Joint satellite TV faces delays

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Government's plans for a comprehensive direct broadcast by satellite (DBS) television network beaming into British homes within two years are likely to be delayed by difficulties over legal issues and disagreements between the partners in the project.

Although the installation of the £400m satellite television network as soon as possible is still seen as a priority by the Prime Minister, there is now a widespread belief in the television industry that the earliest such a system could come into operation is 1988.

Furthermore, the chief broadcasting partners in the project, the BBC and the independent television companies, are likely to exact a heavy ideological price for going ahead with a scheme that the Government regards as a vital job-creation opportunity.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority is expected tomorrow, to back the independent television companies' demands for open-ended television franchises, which could give them licences in perpetuity.

The extension of the independent television franchises will infuriate the advertising industry, which is critical of the "duopoly" that the BBC and commercial stations hold over television. the companies have argued that without the duopoly they will not be able to raise sufficent capital to pay for their share of the satellite.

The IBA has reached its conclusion by a different route. Because it believes the last round of franchise renewals in 1980 were highly unsatisfactory, it proposes a new system of franchises based on rigorous continual assessment of the performance of independent television companies.

At present each franchise is reviewed after a set period to enable rival groups to fight for it.

Computer horizons, page 22

Review ordered on maintenance for husband

The High Court yesterday ordered magistrates to reconsider an order that a woman must pay her estranged husband £20 a week maintenance.

Mrs Vanessa Wills, a clerk with Thames Television, was appealing against a decision of Kingston upon Thames magistrates. Jir John Arnold, President of the Family Division, sitting with Mr Justice Lincoln, said the magistrates did not have enough information about her financial situation to make such an order.

Mrs Wills, of Ashstead, Surrey, left her husband, Christopher, last summer, after he returned home from hospital treatment for a disease which affects his legs.

Mr Wills, who now lives with his parents and was said to have no money other than sickness benefit and mobility allowance, had been granted maintenance until he finishes a postgraduate course next year.

Waxworks ban on accused

John Kevin Acland, a civil servant, aged 21, of Sherington Avenue, Hatch End, north-west London, who is accused of damaging the Sleeping Beauty and other models at Madame Tussaud's in London on Sunday was banned from the waxworks house as a condition of bail by Marylebone magistrates yesterday.

He was remanded until March 26.

Natural mother

Mrs Roselyne Walker, aged 33, of Mosborough, Sheffield, who had a test-tube baby 12 years ago, has baffled doctors by becoming naturally pregnant. She is expecting twins.

Blaze deaths

John Quinn, aged 38, and his daughter Bernadette, aged five, died in a fire at their home in Leytonstone, east London, yesterday. His wife and six other children escaped.

Court powers

Courts are to be given the power from October 1 under the Mental Health Act to send mentally disordered offenders to psychiatric hospitals for assessment and treatment rather than to prison.

Painting's origin uncertain

By Geraldine Norman

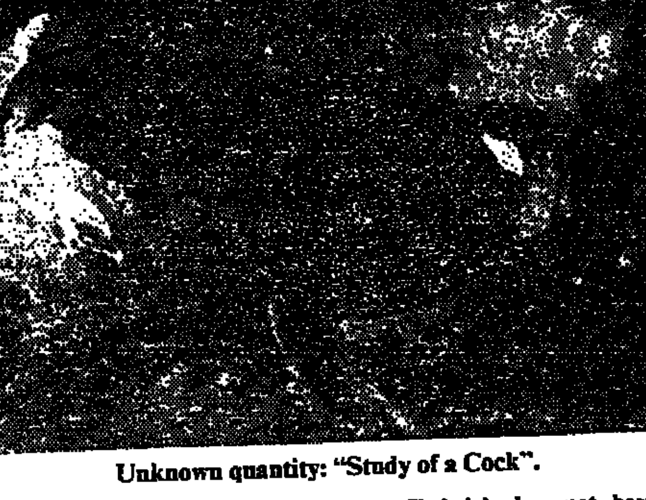
Christie's is having difficulty deciding whether a watercolour it sold on December 13 was a "deliberate forgery" or genuine.

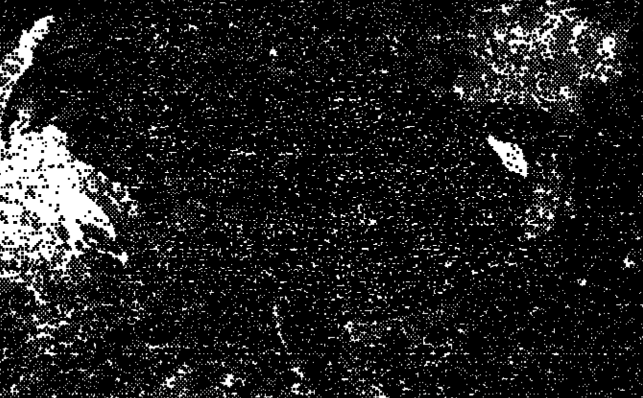
The seller, Mr Ronald Leyton, a Beckenham dealer, has put pressure on the auctioneers through his solicitors because he has not had the £2,860 sale price, or the drawing back.

The watercolour is "Study of a Cock", strongly signed J. Crawhall. Joseph Crawhall was a turn of the century Scottish artist who specialized in painting birds and cows. His work is keenly collected in Scotland.

The purchaser was Andrew Whitfield, of the Carlton Gallery, Edinburgh, who was not able to check the painting until he returned home.

Then he discovered that an identical painting on linen in the Burrell collection in Glasgow. Since Crawhall was not known for different versions of the same subject, Whitfield concluded it must be a forgery and returned it to Christie's a few days after the sale.





Unknown quantity: "Study of a Cock".

While buyers must in general beware of faults in the items on which they bid an exception is made for "deliberate forgeries". Christie's will rescind a sale if the purchaser can prove "deliberate forgery".

On the back of the receipt given to a vendor it is stated that "Christie's are authorized to set aside the sale" if the property is proved a "deliberate forgery". That must be done within a "reasonable period" after the sale.

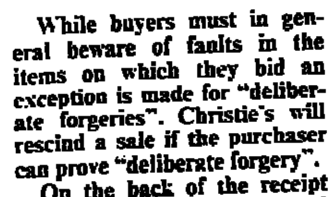
Mr Leyton says that period is nearly over.

Christie's says that it has asked Mr Whitfield to supply written evidence within 10 days. Mr Whitfield is surprised that Christie's has not been prepared to express a view. He hopes to receive a written opinion from Mr Andrew Patrick, director of the Fine Art Society, to settle the issue.

Mr Leyton says he bought the watercolour from a dealer who has sold him many genuine drawings. He paid £100 and spent £35 having it framed.

At Christie's suggestion an estimate of £150 to £250 was put on it, but he insisted on a £250 reserve) believing the watercolour to be worth about £700.

Mr Whitfield says it would be worth nearer £5,000 if genuine.



PARLIAMENT March 5 1984

Growing concern over arts funding after end of GLC

COMMONS

The pattern of funding for the arts in the areas affected by the planned abolition of the GLC and the metropolitan county councils will depend on the outcome of deliberations by the Earl of Gowrie, Minister for the Arts, who is now carefully considering the many representations made to him during the consultation period, Mr William Waldegrave, Under Secretary of State for the Arts, said during Commons questions.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C) asked if the minister had read *The Times* leading article on the subject on Saturday and said many people felt the decision to abolish the councils was a grand political gesture by the Government without it having thought through the consequences.

Will he ensure (he went on) that the Earl of Gowrie produces a consultation paper when he has had a chance to consider all the various representations made about the implications of this decision?

Mr Waldegrave: I did read the leading article, which I thought bore all the hallmarks of leader produced by a committee. There were several different strands running through it. It covered most of the issues and these are certainly well known to the Government. The Earl of Gowrie will be bringing forward a paper which will respond.

Mr Sydney Chapman (Chipping Barnet, C): Will he recognize that *The Times* leader on Saturday spoke for many Londoners when it said the last thing they want, in the event of the abolition of the GLC, is a joint body of councils with power to precept boroughs for an arts element?

While in the event of the abolition of the GLC some of the major London arts functions might be taken over by the Arts Council, could he look into the proposal that some of the minor functions might be encouraged to be taken up by the boroughs by having an element for the arts in the rate support grant settlement?

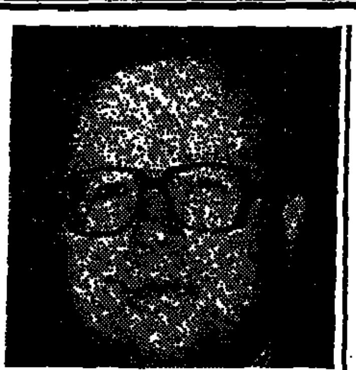
Mr Waldegrove: If we intended the boroughs to take on a larger role in arts funding that would be reflected in their rate support grant settlement. I accept that the least satisfactory solution for the arts would be a joint board. That is my own view.

Mr Norman Buchan, Opposition spokesman on the arts, (Paisley South, Lab): How many of the 500 or so representations recieved have approved of the idea?

Is he aware of the anxiety tat exists in theatre, music and literature about what is happening in the metropolitan authorities and the GLC? Will he tell the Earl of Gowrie tht there should be no decision made in relation to this without a debate on this topic in the House?

We have had a call from hundreds of people, from Lord Olivier to Brian Rix, Bruce Forsyth to Mr Norman St John-Stevas, to which he must pay attention.

Mr Waldegrave: *The Times* leader was correct in saying it would be absurd to defend the structure of local government simply because of the funding of the arts. I was not much impressed by the signed advertisement produced by a public relations firm for the GLC, but I am aware of the genuine concern. It is not the intention of local government reorganization to damage the arts.



Cormack: Political gesture not thought through

Scottish Bill gets guillotined

RATE CAPPING

The Rating and Valuation (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill – which would bring in a similar system of rate capping to that in the Rates Bill for England and Wales – needed to be made law by the summer, Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, told the Commons when moving the imposition of a guillotine motion on the remaining stages of the Scottish Bill.

The motion provides that the standing committee should report the Bill to the House by March 20 and that the report stage and third reading will be completed on one day.

Mr Biffen said that in a spirit of cooperation and reasonableness the Government was happy to accept an Opposition amendment which would allow the report stage and third reading to be debated up to midnight, rather than to 10pm.

He said that, like the Rates Bill for England and Wales, this measure would help ratepayers by penalizing local authorities which overspent.

Local authorities will still (he added) be free to decide rate levels within the limit. It will, however, protect ratepayers from exorbitant rate levels. It will also mean local authorities must consult non-domestic ratepayers before fixing rates. This will mean that local authorities will be fully aware of the impact of their proposed rates.

For two years running, Scottish ratepayers had had to face rate increases of more than 30 per cent.

The second part of the Bill made a series of changes to valuation legislation in Scotland by improving the structure of the system and removing anomalies.

The standing committee had already debated the Bill for 82 hours and had considered only seven of the 17 clauses. There were also new clauses which had been put down still to be debated.

The most contentious parts of the Bill ha been dealt with although there were still important parts to be discussed.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on Commons affairs (Bethnal Green and Stepney, Lab) said Mr Biffen had shown a surprising insensitivity about this Bill: a failure to recognize its constitutional significance. They were talking about a fundamental change in the relation between central and local government, between the powers of Parliament and those of elected local councils.

Among the things they had learnt from this Bill were the practical effects of the transfer of rate-making from the 65 major councils in Scotland to the Secretary of State. The Bill told them that the manpower implications were an additional 10 bureaucrats in New St Andrew's House in Edinburgh who would take over the functions of all those elected councillors.

No doubt he civil servants concerned in decision-making would be conscientious and able men and women: but it was ludicrous to imagine that they had the knowledge of the circumstances of the different councils throughout Scotland that the hundreds of elected councillors possessed.

This measure was deeply opposed by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, who had some right to be taken seriously in their considered opinion of the White Paper and the Bill based upon it.

The Government was getting close to the abolition of local democracy. It was necessary to search far and wide to find any comparison with what the Government was introducing.

What made this timetable motion especially odd as well as objectionable was that progress in committee on the Bill had already been substantial.

He could find no explanation for this rush to impose a timetable and a closing date than the general tendency towards authoritarianism which had marked the first phase of the Prime Minister's second term of office.

Sir Hector Monro (Dumfries, C) said it was obvious that the Oppostion, jollied along by members of the Liberal Party, had tried from the start to drag out the proceedings as much as possible with the intention of preventing the administrative arrangements for 1985-86 beginning to take place within local authorities later this year.

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP) said people had asked him in the last week or two if he could get the Argentines to invade the Western Isles so that they could get some proper funding from the British Government.

The powers of elected representatives were being eroded by the Bill. Councillors were going to be reduced to the job of rubber-stamping decisions from central government. He opposed the intention of cutting short debate on the Bill and would be voting against the Government.

Mr Michael Hirst (Strathkelvin and Bearsden, C) said the Bill had generated less correspondence to him than any other matter and the onlyh letters about it among his large correspondence were thos expressing sorrow that the Government had not undertaken lock, stock and barrel reform of domestic rating.



Stewart: Invitation to Argentinians

The Bill was essential to protect ratepayers from pernicious rate rises and other benefits it would bring to Scotland. The Opposition was seeking to deny the people of Scotland that protection.

Mr Ernest Ross (Dundee West, Lab) said the Bill represented the rhetoric of a government that had done little to help ratepayers in Scotland despited extravagant claims made during two elections.

Behind the legislation lay the wish of the Government to weaken all levels of local government because it had no control over it.

Mr Archy Kirkwood (Roxburgh and Berwickshire, L) said Oppositions facing such a large Government majority were not being realistic if they expected to get round guillotine motions of this kind simply by wasting time.

The Alliance view was that Bills should be timetabled under a procedure involving all parties at an early stage, instead of being guillotined at such a late stage with many clauses and amendments not being discussed at all.

Mr John Home Robertson (East Lothian, Lab) said he made no apology for tabling probing and substantive amendments in the standing committee. That was what the committee was for. What he found deplorable was the party that had won only 28 per cent of the votes in Scotland had 61 per cent of the seats on the committee, and these 10 Conservative backbenchers had maintained total silence throughout.

It was also deplorable that the two most important clauses had been stage managed so that they were dealt with after midnight when there was none there to hear them.

Mr Gerald Malone (Aberdeen South, C) said the Opposition were merely trying to impress their constituents they had the same macho image as their English counterparts. But blame for the guillotine lay with them because they had changed from a constructive approach to one that made the motion necessary.

Mr Michael Forsyth (Stirling, C) said there were many areas of the Bill, such as the valuation proposals, which should be given more scrutiny. But it was important to get this legislation on the statute book as soon as possible, and it was already having effects on local councils.

The amendments were agreed to and the amended motion carried by 280 votes to 178 – Government majority, 102.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Expediture White Paper. Lords (2.30): Housing and Building Control Bill, committee, second day.

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

How bad has morale really become on the Conservative backbenches? It is hardly a good sign when the chairman of the 1922 Committee suggests that the Prime Minister should appoint a deputy and lighten her workload. Nor when such an expoerienced MP as Sir Kenneth Lewis argues, as he did in a powerful letter in *The Times* a week ago, that the Cheltenham episode is a watershed in the life of this Government. But is this criticism representative of opinion among Conservative members?

I doubt if it is at this stage. Certainly a number of Conservative MPs are not only extremely disturbed by the way the Government has dealt with the GCHQ issue, but regard this as a sympton of a deeper malaise. They tend, though, to be either the more experienced or the disenchanted, or both.

Natural justice of banana skin

There are those who have never in their heart agreed with the Thatcherite approach, and have been inclined to see each slide on a banana skin as evidence of natural justice. There are also those who have seen over the years how easily a government's authority can melt.

They rejoiced in the victory of last June, but they felt instinctively that it was too good to last. They are probably more aware than their younger colleagues of the traps that lie in wait for even the most resolute of administrations.

However, I do not believe that these anxieties are yet the majority view in the Conservative parliamentary party. In particular, they are not the view of most of the new members. They still have a certain thrill to find themselves on those green leather benches, they believe that they owe their presence there to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, they see themselves as foot soldiers or more probably junior officers in the army of a commander who is known above all for her nerve under fire, and they are determined that they will not run at the first whiff of grapeshot.

Provided that the Government is finally seen to have won the GCHQ episode, there are a good many Conservative MPs who will simply regard it with satisfaction as another victory over the unions. Even among those whose approach is more subtle there is quite a widespread disinclination to be too worried about the banana skins, because the causes of embarrassment are so different from each other that they are not thought to be much of an indication of the Government's capacity.

None of this means, however, that the critics are wrong or that the unease will not grow. Politicians are usually more suggestible than the rest of us because they depend on electoral favour. They have to be sensitive to the public mood. So the more they read that the Conservative Party is in disarray the more they are likely to believe it – and therefore the more it is likely to be true. Moreover, it is among the more thoughtful members that one is lkely to find a recognition that something has gone wrong.

Government lacks political finesse

The connexion between the banan skins is a lack of political finesse. It is something that easily develops in a strong government that has been long in power, especially when it is facing a weak opposition. The need to explain and to judge the reactions of others in advance becomes less pressing.

When things go politically wrong for a government it is customary to call for better coordinations in the presentation of its case. There is something in this although not, I suspect, so much as is often supposed. Lord Whitelaw of Penrith cannot be so well equipped for this task now that he is in the Lords as he would be if he were still in the Commons. He is not there to sense the ebb and flow of parliamentary opinion where it matters. But he is better suited tempermentally for this particular job than Mr Biffen was.

It is a mistake, though, to imagine that any coordinator could make up for deficiencies in the political arts among departmental ministers. The danger for this government is that both in its composition and its approach it may be too heavily weighted towards administration and not enough towards politics.

Crime down and clear-up rate higher

HOUSE OF LORDS

As a result of the new strategy introduced by the Metropolitan Police Commissioner there had been a drop in the crime rate for London, Lord Elton, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said at question time in the House of Lords.

He told Lord Grimond (L) that the total number of notifiable offences recorded by the Metropolitan Police in 1983 was 4 per cent less than in 1982.

Lord Grimond asked about the figures for the rest of the country and also inquired whether the fall in crime in the capital coincided with the decision to put more policemen on the beat on foot.

Lord Elton said there had been an overall decline of 1 per cent over the police forces of the country.

He added: We see this as being the result of the new strategy introduced by the Commissioner but – as he himself has pointed out – it is a little early to draw any final conclusions from the first batch of figures.

Questioned about the crime detection rate the minister said the rate of clear-up had risen from 16 to 17 per cent.

House sales

Sir George Young, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said in a Commons written reply that it was provisionally estimated that 141,000 local authority and new town dwellings in England were sold in 1983.

Close check being kept on fowl pest

AGRICULTURE

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has the first outbreaks of Newcastle disease (fowl pest) in poultry since 1978 under the closest investigation to try to discover whether they are connected with each other and to find out their origin, Mrs Peggy Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said in the Commons.

In a statement about the outbreaks of the disease last week in Shropshire and near Thirsk in North Yorkshire, Mrs Fenner said the two outbreaks had been confirmed and, in accordance with Government policy, the poultry in question had been or were being destroyed. Compensation was payable.

All possible steps associated with the slaughter policies were being taken by the State Veterinary Service to prevent spread of the disease, including declarations of infected areas, movement restrictions and tracings.

Is she satisfied (he asked) that there is no external overseas source of infection? Will she keep the House informed of further developments because only 14 years ago the British poultry industry lost 44 million head of poultry in such an outbreak. Can she assure us that everthing that can be done will be done?

Mrs Fenner: I can certainly assure him that everthing that can be done will be done. Both origin and connexion are under closest investigation and I will tell the House of the latest news.

Mr Tony Baldry (Banbury, C): Many poultry farmers are concerned that these outbreaks may be directly related to the large number of chickens being imported from our European partners.

Can she assure us that every effort will be made to ensure that there is no connexion between EEC imports and the outbreaks?

Mrs Fenner: Every investigation as to origin is being and will be made. The ministry will do everything possible to find the origin of the disease.

In a further reply she said: We shall do everthing possible to restrict these outbreaks. Following confirmation of the disease, infected area restrictions were imposed on a 10 kilometre radius.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab): What is the Government position on vaccination?

Mrs Fenner: The general application of vaccination by owners would have to be considered as an option it the slaughter policy was seen to be likely to fail, but vaccination under ministry control around outbreaks would represent another option.

What to give up during Lent

Referring to the speech by Mr John Butcher, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry at the weekend when he called on clergymen to give up politics for Lent, Mr John Ryman (Blyth Valley, Lab) asked Sir William van Straubenzee, Second Church Estates Commisioner, representing the Church Commissioners: What is his view of the absurd speech made by an obscure junior minister?

Sir William van Straubenzee: Personally, I think that during Lent one should try to give up something you will miss. (Laughter).

Farmers see need for change

WALES

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, said during Commons question time exchanges that he believed farmers understood the need to deal with a situation in which large surpluses were being produced at excessive cost.

Asked by Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon, Pl C) for an assessment of economic prospects for farming in Wales, Mr Edwards said the measures needed to reduce surpluses and control public expenditure on agriculture were bound to affect farming incomes in Wales as elsewhere.

But (he added) I believe that Welsh farmers are well capable of adapting to the changes.

Mr Wigley: Many Welsh dairy farmers are worried that the agricultural and horticultural development scheme will not have a roll forward provision for the six months from January 1.

As many farms in Wales are mixed farms, how will it be possible to differentiate between dairy farming and non-dairy farming elements in respect of investment in, for example, soil imnprovement and fencing?

Mr Edwards: At the moment existing schemes are being rolled over because agreement has not yet been reached on future provision.

In view of the complicated negotiations currently going on, it is too early to speculate exactly how farmers will have to deal with matters not finally settled.

Mr Geraint Howells (Ceredigion and North Pembroke, L): Is he in favour of introducing a quota system to persuade Welsh farmers to produce extra food from the land?

Mr Edwards: I am certain a large number of Welsh farmers and Welsh farming interests believe a quota system may be the best way to protect individual farms in a period of change.

The current negotiations in Europe lead one to the conclusion that some form of quota system may emerge even though this Government advocated a system based on price.

Mr Tom Hooson (Brecon and Radhnor, C): There is great satisfaction in the hill areas of Wales at the success of the Government in obtaining an extension of the less favoured areas definition.

Mr Edwards: I am sure the announcement that we have been successful in the negotiations on marginal land will be widely welcomed. It has been fought for over a long period and it will make a considerable contribution once we have been able to introduce the new arrangements.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab): Should farming prospects in Wales be so dependent on the loss of historic sites as outlined in an article in *The Guardian* of last Friday in which *The Guardian* journalist bitterly attacked the Secretary of State for Wales for allowing uncontrolled decimation of historic sites?

Wigley: People acted in 'the only way'

Will Mr Edwards answer the accussations which were levelled in that article?

Mr Edwards: There is no truth at all in the suggestion that there is uncontrolled decimation of sites. The article is riddled with inaccuracies and there is certainly no truth in the suggestion that farmers are profiting in this way. It is an absurd invention and I repudiate it entirely.

Mr Barry Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on Welsh affairs: There is growing unease in the dairy sector in Wales, especially among those dependent on the milk cheque from 40 to 50 beasts. Has he in mind any major initiatives from his own department.

There is a parallel between dairy farmers and those who distribute the milk. In the latter case there are many thousands of jobs ultimately at stake.

Mr Edwards: I understand the concern. I represent a large number of milk producers and I have been speaking exrtremely frankly to them about the changes I believe will be needed.

They understand the need to deal with the situation in which we produce surpluses at excessive cost. I think a lot of them will be looking at their farming systems to see if they can reduce their own input costs.

Tunnel under Severn will be considered

The terms of reference of the feasibility study to look into the building of a second Severn crossing would be announced in the not too distant future, Mr John Stradling Thomas, Minister of State, Welsh Office, said during questions in the Commons.

He said he had received representations from the Welsh Office of the CBI, other commercial interests and local authorities. These clearly indicated a welcome for the study and he knew that these sentiments were widely shared in Wales.

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch, C): In view of the problems experienced with road bridges, such as the Hammersmith bridge, and the lack of problems with rail bridges, including the old one under the Severn, can I ask for two assurances: that a tunnel will be considered as a possible alternative to a bridge; and if there is any possibility that the second crossing could be a rail crossing might not it be possible to combine road and rail in one crossing?

Mr Stradling Thomas: The terms of reference of the feasibility study are being drawn up with all speed and will be announced in the not too distant future.

With regard to a tunnel, that of course will be taken into consideration. I know Mr Adley's dedication to railways, and I commend him for it. All factors will be taken into account before a final decision is made.

Sir Raymond Gower (Vale of Glamorgan, C): Can he give an assurance that the terms of reference will be as wide as possible to embrace the alternatives mentioned by Mr Adley? Will they include the possibility of a barrage?

Mr Stradling Thomas: I can assure him the terms of reference will be widely drawn. One proviso is that we do not wish to delay stating the terms of reference and so the idea of a barrage must stand or fall on its ability to generate electricity.

Wigley has proved himself 'rotten to core'

Those who tried to advance the cause of the Welsh language by denying free speech, as some did to the Secretary of State for Wales (Mr Nicholas Edwards) over the weekend, caused great harm to the cause they sought to serve and undermined a great deal of the good will that existed towards the language, Mr Wyn Roberts, Under Secretary of State for Wales, said at question time in the Commons.

He was replying to Sir Anthony Meyer (Clwyd North West, C), who said that people calling for breaches of the law, like those who demonstrated their hooliganism to Mr Edwards, the Secretary of State, did much to damage the cause of the Welsh language.

Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon, Pl C): After the Tory Government in 1979 broke its election pledge on the fourth channel the only way people could remind it of that promise was by refusing to buy a television licence.

Would he repudiate what was said by two Conservative MPs this (Monday) morning that the £2m – the mere £2m – spent on the Welsh language is a waste of money? Is that the attitude of Tory backbench MPs in England?

Mr Roberts: The over £2m we are giving towards the Welsh language is four times as much as was given by the Labour Government whom he fully supported.

With regard to his other points, he has simply confirmed the opinion we already had that in supporting those who attacked Mr Edwards he has proved himself a bad egg and as rotten to the core as much of the stuff that was thrown at the Secretary of State.

Possible problems for Commons staff

TRAVEL

Since January 1982 members of the House of Commons staff have been required to report intended visits by them to some Communist countries to departmental heads and there had been opportunities for staff representations since then, Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, L) said in the Commons answering questions for the House of Commons Commission.

Mr Donald Coleman (Neath, Lab) asked him why is it necessary for this limitation ot be placed upon staff of this House and what special reasons are there which require staff to be treated differently from MPs in using their own time?

Mr Beith: The purpose of the requirement is to ensure staff have access to advice which may be used in travelling to countries where experience suggests difficulties may arise from their status as employees of the House. It is in the interests of the staff that they can obtain that advice.

Mr Robert Rhodes James (Cambridge, C): This applies to former officers of this House and as the only former officer who is a member of the House, why should I not have a holiday in Albania without asking permission of the Clerk of the House?

Mr Beith: Neither present nor former staff are precluded from visiting any of the countries concerned, but we want to make sure they are given advice which may be useful to them.

Mr Davin Winnick (Walsall North, Lab): Are the KGB trying to find out about parliamentary procedure, the adjournment, question time and the rest?

Mr Beith: The procedures of the House are well known

Mr Patrick Cormack (Staffordshire South, C): Can he assure the House this has nothing to do with the fact that the chairman of the Commons catering subcommittee (Mr Charles Irving) is the MP for Cheltenham? (Laughter).

Mr Beith: Yes.

Mr Alan Williams (Swansea West, Lab) for the Opposition: Why has it taken 14 months for the House to be informed of this particular change? Could we not confine the requirements to those shown to be most at risk, thereby excluding cleaners, clerks and other servants who have not attended the best public schools?

Mr Beith: It is the duty of the Commission to keep under review arrangements of this kind. He may underestimate the consequences of working in this building and the status which members of our staff have.

Self-policing professionals: 2

Medical council tougher on sexual misconduct than treatment errors

In the second of a three part series, PETER EVANS, Home affairs Correspondent, examines moves to reform the General Medical Council, the cases it handles and the penalties available.

Sexual relations with a patient are more likely to get a doctor into trouble with the General Medical Council (GMC) than wrong diagnosis or treatment. Or, as Mr David Tench, legal officer of the Consumers' Association, says: "A doctor is in real dead trouble if he puts his hand on the knee of a family patient; but if he kills her by wrong diagnosis, in terms of professional misconduct he could well be in the clear."

That is the serious charge levelled against the council after recent disciplinary cases which have led to misgivings by MPs, one of whom, Mr Nigel Spearing, Labour MP for Newham South, is planning to introduce a private member's Bill to reform the council's powers.

A case which dramatized the issue concerned a doctor's long sexual relationship with a patient which resulted in him [illegible] suspended from practising [illegible] nine months. The [illegible] decided not to strike him off the medical register after pleas from the patient who was the complainant.

	Cases considered	Referred to Professional Conduct Committee	Letters of admonition or advice sent
Disregard of personal responsibilities to patients	7	4	2
Abuse of alcohol	34	–	29
Abuse of drugs	8	2	3
Non *bona fide* prescribing to others of addictive drugs	3	3	–
Breach of professional confidence	3	3	–
Emotional or sexual relationships with a patient	7	4	1
Dishonesty	18	7	7
Violence	4	1	3
Indecency	7	1	–
Advertising or canvassing	13	5	–
False certification	5	–	5
Improper financial transaction	1	–	–
Other cases	5	–	–

A second doctor was admonished after he failed to give appropriate treatment to two children, both aged two, who later died.

In a third case, a doctor was admonished, for failing to visit an elderly patient who later died.

The most serious punishment a doctor can be given by the professional conduct committee is erasure from the register. It can also: suspend registration for not more than 12 months; make registration conditional on compliance with the GMC's requirements; place the doctor on probation by postponing its decision: admonish the doctor and conclude the case.

The GMC admits in its booklet, *Professional Conduct: Fitness to Practice*: "The council is not ordinarily concerned with errors in diagnosis or treatment, or with matters which give rise to action in the civil courts for negligence, unless the doctor's conduct in the case has involved such a disregard of his professional responsibility to his patients or such a neglect of his professional duties as to raise a question of serious professional misconduct."

The kind of case the council has regarded as most serious is reflected in its annual report for 1982, when five doctors were penalized by erasure. Two arose from improper relations with patients. A third came from the conviction of a doctor with a long previous record. In another, a doctor issued many prescriptions for drugs for fees "otherwise than in the course of bina fide treatment". The fifth concerned a doctor who charged high fees for injections "of an undisclosed nature" after diagnoses of two patients which was not subsequently confirmed by hospital examination.

Judging by its reaction towards serious professional misconduct proven in the past 10 years, the council appears to take a more serious view of the worst examples of emotional relations with a patient; penalties range from admonition to erasure, depending on what happened. Where a doctor has seriously disregarded responsibilities to a patient, penalties ranged from admonition to suspension, although erasure would be an available sanction.

In cases resulting in erasure, suspension or the making of registration subject to conditions, doctors can appeal to the Privy Council.

Tomorrow: The Church

Minister in Lent clash unrepentant

By Craig Seton

Mr John Butcher, the minister criticized for his comments on the quasi-political pronouncements of clergymen, indicated yesterday that he would not give up provocative statements for Lent.

Mr Butcher, Under-Secretary for Trade and Industry, upset clergymen and Labour politicians by suggesting that some churchmen were in danger of being viewed with the cynicism usually reserved for politicians if they intervened too often in political debate.

He had also suggested that some clergymen should give up politics as their contribution to the spirit of Lent.

Last year Mr Butcher issued an apology for implying that Northern people were workshy but yesterday, on an official visit to Birmingham, he would not concede that his latest comments were a blunder.

He said: "Looking at the reactions, those of the clergy are much more measured and considered than those of the two or three dial-a-quote politicians who really should do their homework."

Mr Butcher said on BBC Raido yesterday that the issue was part of a debate which had continued for 600 years – the role of the church and state and the church within the state (the Press Association reports).

Man in the news

Siege chief to lead London's detectives

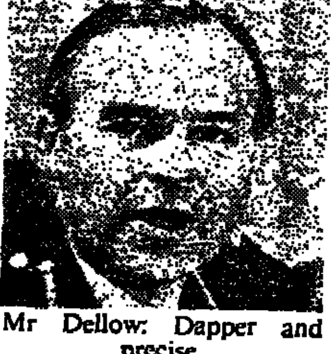
By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

John Dellow, police commander at the Iranian embassy siege who headed the inquiry into Buckingham Palace security after the Fagan affair, is to take overall control of London detectives this month.

Mr Dellow, aged 52, has been appointed assistant commissioner in charge of C department, which has 3,400 officers.

But the man who will direct groups such as the Flying Squad has spent much of his career in uniform and has been a Metropolitan Police officer for just over 10 years. In some ways Mr Dellow has been the high-flying backroom boy.

Born in London, Mr Dellow joined the City of London force after working for Shell and then in personnel selection with the RAOC during national service. Mr Dellow became an inspector in the City force before going to the police staff college at Bramshill.





Mr Dellow: Dapper and precise.

He then joined the Kent force, rising from superintendent to assistant chief constable before moving to the Yard in 1973. He joined the Metropolitan Police as deputy assistant commissioner in charge of traffic planning and moved through several postings including personnel, the inspectorate and as deputy assistant commissioner in charge of number two police area.

It was in that role he was thrust into the glare of publicity in the spring of 1980 at the Iranian embassy. He appeared a dapper, precisely spoken man with something of the air of the military officer in mufti about him; he was earlier the first police officer to attend military staff college.

In 1982, Mr Dellow, assistant commissioner in charge of training and technical support, investigated police failings at Buckingham Palace after Michael Fagan reached the Queen's bedroon. His report provided the basis for radical changes in the command system.

Mandela offered freedom if he will agree to live in Transkei

From Michael Hornsby
Johannesburg


Nelson Mandela: Rejected earlier freedom deals

Mr Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader who is serving a term of life imprisonment for sabotage, could be set free if he agrees to live in Transkei, one of South Africa's four nominally independent, but internationally unrecognized black tribal mini-states.

This claim had been made by friends of the Mandela family, who say that Chief Kaiser Mantanzima, the President of the Xhosa-speaking Transkei, offered the deal to Mrs Winnie Mandela, the ANC leader's wife, at a meeting two weeks ago in Umtata, the Transkei capital.

Chief Matanzima is not, of course, in a position to order Mr Mandela's release, but it us unlikely he would have made the offer without Pretoria's approval. A cousin of Mr Mandela, Chief Mantazima is believed to have made the same offer at least twice before in recent years.

Mr Mandela has always turned down release on these terms. It is understood that Mrs Mandela will put the latest offer to her husband later this week on her regular monthly visit to the Pollsmoor Prison near Cape Town, where he is being held.

The rumours about Mr Mandela, who is in his mid-sixties and had been in jail for 21 years, come less than a week after the release of Mr Herman Toivo ja Toivo, the veteran Namibian nationalist and co-founder of Swapo (the South West Africa People's Organization). Mr Toivo still had four years of a 20-year sentence for terrorism to run.

The Ministry of Justice declined comment on the reports, but a spokesman for the Department of Prisons said that the release of Mr Mandela was "not under consideration". A spokesman for Chief Mantanzima did not deny the reports, but said such matters were confidential.

US 'manoeuvres' denounced

Toivo comes out still fighting

From Eric Marsden, Windhoek

Now that he is free after 16 years in prison on Robben Island, Mr Herman Toivo, founder of the South West Africa People's Organization, hopes to travel abroad to plead Swapo's imperilled cause.

If his request for travel documents succeeds, he may embark on a tour of the African front ine states whose support for Swapo and South Africa's banned African National Congress is wavering in the face of the peace initiative by Pretoria and Washington.

Mr Toivo, aged 59, made known his travel ambitions at a press conference in Windhoek; or rather they were made known for him by Swapo's "foreign secretary", Mr Nico Bessinger, who answered several questions for him and explained that the freed leader "*cannot speak at this time on* policy matters for Swapo, as we have had no time to talk".

When Mr Toivo started speaking for himself there seemed to be little reason for his colleague's nervousness. *His* views were forthright. In the 1960s Swapo had had no alternative but to take up arms, and it was fighting still, *he* said.

He had kept up with the latest events while in prison. "There are manoeuvres taking place at this moment between South Africa, the United States and others. They are doing it all specifically for the US election.

"They want to give credibility to the Reagan Administration because it has failed in Lebanon, Central and South America, and even to an extent *in South Africa because con*structive engagement has got them nowhere. They are going to fail."

His outstanding memory of prison days was his close association with the ANC leaders, Mr Nelson Mandela, and Mr Walter Sisulu. "We were one family together."

Explaining his four-hour attempt to resist release in Windhoek prison last Thrusday, Mr Toivo said he had finally accepted his freedom after being told that "whether I want to be released or not, the order has been signed and nothing can be done". He had earlier asked to be sent back to Robben Island until all his comrades could be freed with him.

Zimbabwe's white exodus grows

Harare (AFP) – The number of white emigrants from Zimbabwe rose last year while the number of tourists visiting the country declined, according to Government statistics.

Last year 19,067 people left Zimbabwe, virtually all of them presumed to be white, compared with 17,942 in 1982. The highest yearly emigration figure was in 1981 when 20,534 people left.

Although most of Zimbabwe is peaceful, reports of dissident violence in the south appears to have discouraged tourists. The decline in visitors to 298,041 last year from 351,046 in 1982 is a significant setback to the country's tourist industry, which had counted on a steady increase in business after the end of the war for majority rule in 1980.

The number of whites here reached a peak of about 270,000 when it was white-ruled Rhodesia in the 1960s, dwindled to an estimated 200,000 at independence in 1980, and is now estimated to be just above 100,000.



Pomp and circumstance: Mrs Gandhi shares diplomatic courtesies with Marshal Ustinov as, outside the Soviet Embassy in Delhi, Afghans demonstrate.

India rolls out red carpet for Ustinov

From Kuldip Nayar
Delhi

Marshal Dmitri Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister, who arrived here yesterday with a 70-strong delegation, met Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, to discuss political and military relations between India and the Soviet Union.

Marshal Ustinov gave Mrs Gandhi a message from Mr Konstantin Chernenko, the Soviet leader, whom she met in Moscow at Mr Andropov's funeral. At the airport, flanked by top military officials, including Admiral S. G. Gorshokov, the Soviet naval chief, Marshal Ustinov said Indo-Soviet friendship and cooperation has been "very good, useful, and it is needed".

He made special mention of the Indo-Soviet pact signed in August, 1971, a few months before the Bangladesh war. "Our cooperation has really moved in the correct direction," he said. Mr R. Vekataraman, India's Defence Minister, who received the marshal at the airport, said that the marshal's visit so soon after the changes in the Soviet leadership indicated the importance Russia attached to their relations and cooperation with India.

Church and state seek peace with honour

Schools dialogue resumes in France

From Diana Geddes, Paris

In the aftermath at Versailles on Sunday of the biggest demonstration in France since the "events" of May, 1968, the Government and the Roman Catholic Church got back to work yesterday to thrash out a compromise acceptable for their supporters on the future of the predominantly Catholic, private school system.

Both sides seem anxious to reach a quick settlement of this highly contentious issue, which has created deep and bitter divisions in French society over the past three years. But both sides are equally anxious not to appear to have lost face. There must be no victors or vanquished in this battle.

M Lionel Jospin, First Secretary of the Socialist Party, provoked a flurry of excited headlines proclaiming an imminent total retreat by the Government, when he spoke last week of the need for "greater flexibility" on the private schools issue, and suggested that the Government had enough on its hands at present with the battle on the industrial and economic fronts, without engaging in another battle on the educational front.

Yesterday, however, commenting on the estimated 600,000 to 800,000 demonstrators who massed in Versailles to defend "freedom of education", M Jospin seemed to change his tune when he said that he believed no further concessions should be made, and that it should not be only the Government which sought reconciliation and rapprochment.

M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, spoke about the need for each side to "make the step toward the other", but went on to make clear that the Government had no intention of giving way on the two most hotly contested proposals "limiting parental choice of private schools to schools within a specified catchment area; and giving teachers in private schools the right to enter into a contract with the state, thereby acquiring job security an other privileges.

There are about 10,000 private schools in France catering *for two million* children, representing 15 per cent of *the total school population*. The vast majority (93 per cent) are *Roman Catholic (there are no* Catholic schools in the state *system), run by the Church with* teachers appointed by the *Church, but paid for by the* state. The state (or local *authority) also pays for most of* the running costs.

Private schools in France are not the same as independent schools in Britain. They are not so exclusive, not so divisive socially, not nearly so expensive (fees are often no more than £50 a term, although they can rise to £300 or more) and often not so good academically as the best of the British public schools. They are in many ways nearer our voluntary-aided Church schools in the state sector.

Parents send their children to private schools not so much for religious or even academic reasons (the schools vary tremendously in standard), but because they believe the discipline is better, the quality of teaching higher, moral standards *given more importance*, and most of all because they *have the right to choose* the school they want. There is no *choice for parents of pupils in* state Schools.

When President Mitterrand came to power in May, 1981, he promised as one of his "110 propositions" to introduce "a single, large, unified, and secular national education system". However, the unexpected force of the opposition to such a "nationalization" of private schools soon persuaded the socialists to drop the insistence on the "secular" part, and to modify its ideas on unification.

The first set of proposals, brought out by M Alain Savary, the Education Minister, in December, 1982, would have allowed private schools to keep their "special character" in relation to their religious and intellectual activities, but would have integrated them into the state sector and deprived them of their all-important right to appoint their own teachers.

D'Aubuisson named as death squad organizer

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington

Attempts by the Reagan Administration to gain congressional approval for increased military and economic aid to El Salvador have been further damaged by a series of fresh allegations directly implicating senior Salvadorean officials in acts of political terrorism.

According to evidence provided by a former Salvadorean military officer to members of Congress and also to *The New York Times*, Señor Roberto D'Aubuisson, a right-wing politician, organized and continues to direct the "death squads" which have been responsible for thousands of political assassinations. Señor D'Aubuisson is a leading contender in the country's presidential election later this month.

Among those killed on Señor D'Aubuisson's orders were Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero and Señor Mario Zamora, a leading member of the Christian Democratic Party, according to the evidence.

Señor D'Aubuisson, who heads the right-wing National Republican Alliance party, was planning to visit Washington this week but US officials said the former Salvadorian Army major had been denied a visa.

Other prominent Salvadorean officials who are said to be directly implicated in death squad activities include Colonel Nicolás Carranza, chief of the Treasury Police, and General José Guillermo Garcia, the former Defence Minister.

General Eugenio Vides Casanova, the Defence Minister, is accused of personally directing a cover-up of the murder of four American nuns in 1980.

Señor D'Aubuisson and General Casanova have both denied the charges. Señor Alvaro Magana, the country's provisional President, said at the weekend that he had no evidence that Señor D'Aubuisson was continuing to direct the death squads.

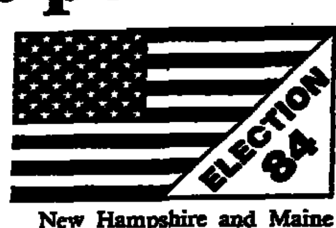
The officer responsible for providing this damning information has served at the highest level of the Salvadorean security police. He has not been named because of fear of reprisal.

The reason why he had decided to speak out was because he feared that "uncontrollable violence" would consume El Salvador if Señor D'Aubuisson – whom he described as an "anarchic psychopath" – was elected President.

Outsider becomes front-runner in democratic presidential race

Mondale fears further setback in Vermont as Hart poll lead grows

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington



Having been made to eat humble pie twice in less than a week, first in New Hampshire and now in Mains, Mr Walter Mondale faces the prospect of further humiliating defeats at the hand of his young upstart rival, Senator Gary Hart.

Today Vermont holds its primary election which, although non-binding, will help to maintin Senator Hart's present momentum if he achieves his expected victory there. Similarly the caucuses which Wyoming holds on Saturday are also likely to add to the Colorado senator's aura of success.

This will leave Senator Hart in a far stronger position than would have been thought possible two weeks ago to run a close race with Mr Mondale in all of the nine state which hold their primaries and caucuses on "Super Tuesday", March 13.

Before Senator Hart scored his upset victory in New Hampshire a week ago, Mr Mondale's campaign staff had hoped the former Vice-President would consolidate his claim to the party's presidential nomination by winning most, if not all, the "Supr Tuesday" contests.

New Hampshire and Maine have shattered that prospect. According to a new poll published by the *Boston Globe*, Mr Mondale is now trailing Senator Hart by 41 per cent to 29 per cent in Massachusetts, one of the key Super Tuesday states. Nor can Mr Mondale's ascendancy in the three Southern states which vote on March 13 – Florida, Georgia and Alabama – be taken for granted any more.

Conceding that "I am in trouble, I need help", Mr Mondale tried to play down the significance of the Maine result where he was narrowly defeated by Senator Hart.

The senator won 50.7 per cent of the votes counted compared with 43.7 per cent for Mr Mondale. The other three candidates still in the race attracted only a smattering of support.

Only 16,481 votes were cast (less than 5 per cent of the state's registered Democrats bothered to cast their ballot) and analysts said it would be wrong to draw too many conclusions from such a small turnout.

Claiming that he has "come from behind" in Maine, Mr Mondale said the narrowness of the result there showed that his new strategy of attacking Senator Hart on issues was beginning to pay off.

However, Mr Mondale's remarks deliberately ignored the fact that he had entered the Maine race as the clear favourite, had outspent Senator Hart by 10-1 and had the all-out backing of the entire state party hierarchy.

Senator Hart could scarcely contain his glee at having unseated Mr Mondale from his front-runner position for a second time when both candidates attended a Democratic Party Dinner in Boston on Sunday night. "We may have brought a political juggernaut to its knees," he declared.

Some of his remarks were so sharp they elicited a smattering of boos from among the dinner guests. To his credit, Mr Mondale maintained a stiff upper lip "We are going to lose some more but we are now starting to gain momentum every day," he remarked.

Winning smile: Senator Hart at a Democratic Party dinner in Boston also attended by Mr Mondale

Democrats court black vote

From Christopher Thomas, Birmingham, Alabama

The road to the White House has swung south to Dixie, towards the beat of black political revivalism. "The hands that once picked cotton can now pick a President. . . ."

A black man is campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination, but with a self-conscious irony large numbers of black leaders in the South have not endorsed him. By backing a white man they have a chance of victory: by backing the Rev Jesse Jackson they would have none.

Blacks are the most consistently loyal group within the Democratic Party, particularly in presidential elections where they provide 20 to 22 per cent of the democratic vote total. No matter that the Republicans, the party of Lincoln, abolished slavery: since the New Deal only those deeming themselves to be more middle-class than black voters voted Republican.

With 90 per cent of black votes destined for the Democrats, the South is critical to a would-be Democratic President. Its importance increases with every tiny advance in black political involvement, with every new black voter registration drive. After the shocks of New Hampshire and Maine, it is where Mr Walter Mondale must hold his ground. If he stumbles here, it could be disastrous for him.

Alabama, Florida and Georgia hold their primaries on "Super Tuesday" next week, together with two other state primaries and five caucuses. Mr Mondale's Southern machine hums with expensive precision, a Rolls-Royce compared with Mr Jackson's rattling Chevy. "In those three states I am well known", Mr Mondale said. "I am part Georgian", added the man from Minnesota.

Hardly a dime of Jackson election money is in the South. His campaign here operates from college campuses, from front parlours, from the pulpits of black churches. His managers believe he packs such an emotional punch in the South that he does not need to bring the entourage along. Besides, he cannot afford to.

It is his presumed ability to mobilize the black vote that makes the South so unpredictable. Mr Mondale has the backing of many large black organizations, but according to opinion polls Mr Jackson has captured the grass roots.

Only three months ago the South looked as if it were the domain of Senator John Glenn, who waited leisurely to ambush Mr Mondale, in the Southern Primaries. Bur Mr Mondale, astride his mightly election machine, seems to have passed smoothly by.

As for Senator Gary Hart, he is not campaigning assiduously either in Alabama or Georgia, where he is not well known. The *Atlanta Journal* said it all: "South Doesn't know what to make of Hart". For Mr Mondale, that is wonderful news.

Pundits have coined the phrase "The fairness issue" in discussing the reaction of poor people, including blacks, to White House policies. But more than policies, there are important perceptions among blacks – perceptions like Mr Reagan's lukewarm support for making Martin Luther King's birthday a national holiday; like the budget cuts hitting severely at welfare programmes, like the scarcity of blacks in the higher echelons of federal government.

Chemicals test on Iranian's body

By Hazir Teimourian and Richard Evans

A 17-year-old Iranian soldier died yesterday in Stockholm's Karolinska hospital of burns and poisoning apparently caused by chemical weapons in the early phase of Iran's current offensive against Iraq. The dead soldier, whose name was not disclosed, was one of five flown to Sweden on Sunday for treatment. Another 10 were flown to Vienna. Alll suffered from mild to severe burns on their bodies and some had inflamed lungs.

Shortly before the soldier died, the Karolinska Hospital said suspicions that the wounds were of chemical origin had greatly increased. Tests were being carried out on his body.

Dr Anders Hedland, a specialist at Uppsola University Hospital, said the reduction in red and white blood cells detected in two of the patients might be due to toxic agents affecting the bone marrow.

Doctors at both hospitals emphasized that it was difficult to establish exactly what substance has caused the injuries.

At Vienna General Hospital, Dr Ernst Wollner, head of the second surgical clinic, said: "All we can say is that all the patients in our charge are suffering from burns induced by chemicals." All the tests his hospital had carried out had proved negative.

Experts in West Germany and Britain had been contacted because the hospital had little experience of burns caused by chemicals.

In London yesterday, the Foreign Office called in Iran's acting Chargé d'Affaires, Mr Abolghassem Mokhtari, to deny again allegations that Britain had sold chemical weapons to Iraq.

According to Mr Alastair Hay, a lecturer in chemical pathoogy at the University of Leeds, the Iraqis may have been employing mustard gas, first used on Allied troops at Ypres in 1917. "It is still held in large quantities by the US, the Soviet Union and France", he told *The Times*, "and the Iraqis could have manufactured it themselves. It would not be terribly difficult."

Western intelligence on the war is said to be poor. Major Bob Eliot, of the International Institute for Strategic Studies

Scrapping of accord with Israel hastens partition of Lebanon

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The cancellation of the controversial Israel-Lebanon accord came as a bitter blow to the Government of Mr Yitshak Shamir which had earlier trumpeted it as one of the main achievements of the Lebanon war.

An Immediate result was to increase tension between Israel and Syria and lead many analysts to speculate that the abrogation would hasten the *de facto* partition of Lebanon into distinct spheres of influence answerable either to Jerusalem or Damascus.

Senior Israeli officials have served warning that the scrapping of a freely negotiated agreement – Israel's second with an Arab country – would have a deleterious effect on future attempts to secure accords between Jews and Arabs. "How can we tell now that any agreement we negotiate will not also be scrapped after a few months under Syrian threats", one said.

Sone observers believe that the Government will use the collapse of the agreement to resist any future American efforts to try to persuade it to negotiate a territory-for-peace accord with Jordan over the ocuupied West Bank.

Mr Shimon Peres, the leader of the Labour opposition, was quick to follow the Beirut decision with a repeat of his earlier call for an early pull-out of all Israeli troops from southern Lebanon.

The Government however, has made clear it will not heed any such demands. Mr Shamir used the opportunity of Lebanon's declaration of the 1983 accord as "null and void" to issue a diatribe against the regime of President Assad of Syria, which he accused of blocking effort to enlarge the circle of peace in the Middle East.

"Immediately after the signing of the agreement, Syria began to take violent action to achieve its abrogation," the Prime Minister said. "Syria forced the Lebanese Government to surrender to its dicates, which means a death sentence for Lebanon's independence and its sovereignty. Israel strongly condemns Syria intervention and the abrogation."

After emphasizing US involvement in negotiating the agreement and its initial approval by what he described as an "overwhelming majority" of the Lebanese Parliament, Mr Shamir said that because Lebanon was now incapable of fulfilling its international obligations and of preventing south Lebanon becoming a terrorist base again, Israel would now "determine the best ways of ensuring its security". These were not spelled out in detail, though they have been debated at length

In practice, the Israelis are expected to sanction a further retreat southwards

Many observers believe that the Cabinet may now feel freer to press ahead with moves to try to cut down further on Israel's heavy casualty toll. Already 15 Jewish soldiers have been injured in southern Lebanon this week.

Mr Sharmir said that Israel would continue to show friendship towards the Lebanese Christian community although in practice the supply of Israeli weaponry to the Christians in the north could dry up as Syria's influence in that area is further strengthened.

Although there have been recent low-level contacts with the Gemayel Government about possible alternative security arrangements in the south, Israeli ministers are highly sceptical that anything worthwhile can now be offered. "He has no soldiers to send to the south", one Government source said. "He is almost a caricature."

What the treaty said

The agreement between Lebanon and Israel provided for the withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Lebanon, the established of "mutual relations" between the two countries, the free movement of people and goods across their common border, and security measures to prevent guerrilla atacks against Israel from southern Lebanon.

Its 11 pages carried 27 extra pages of annexes which specified the troops that Lebanon would be permitted to maintain in the south and detailed joint security arrangments between the Lebanese and Israeli armies.

The treaty did not say that Syria would have to withdraw its Army at the same time as the Israelis. This stipulation was contained in a separate agreement between the United States and Israel in which the Lebanese Government was not involved

The agreement provided for the enrolment of pro-Israeli militias into the Lebanese army and for a liaison committee with representatives from Israel, Lebanon and the United States to resolve disputes.



Wall-power: A mixed reception for the posters of Ayatollah Khomeini now appearing all over West Beirut.

Rabbi and wife are expelled by Russia

Moscow (Reuter) – Two British tourists have been expelled from Leningrad for conducting Zionist activities, bringing to six the number of visitors ordered out of the city in the past month, according to Tass.

Rabbi Ingram Howard and his wife Judith from Newcastle were expelled after they began visiting the homes of Soviet Jews who maintained contact with "foreign Zionist centres" and distributed Zionist literature, the agency said. It added that the couple had already been warned after Zionist materials were seized from them when they arrived at Leningrad airport.

Last month a London couple and two men from New York were expelled from Leningrad for similar offences. Two other Britons and two Americans received warnings.

Tass said the expulsions followed increased activity by "Western Zionist centres" whose agents used the guise of tourists to stir up "nationalist feeling" among citizens and spread slanderous information.

Family killed

Modane, France (AP) – A Turkish family of four was struck and killed by a train while attempting to enter France illegally through the Frejus Tunnel from Italy. The two adults and two children were not named.

Stalin's friends



Paris (AfP) – Albania – alone in the Communist world – commemorated the thirty-first anniversary of the death of Stalin. Conferences were organized on his life and work and on his "inflexible battle for freedom, democracy and peace".

Wall of ice

Moscow (AFP) – A series of earthquakes and violent snowstorms in Tadzhikistan have caused a shift in a huge glacier which had not moved for more than 20 years, Tass reported. It is blocking the course of a river with a wall of ice.

Korea air link

Seoul (Reuter) – Britain and South Korea signed an agreement to provide direct air links between London and Seoul. Mr Paul Channon, Minister for Trade, signed on behalf of Britain.

Fatal flight

Lübeck, West Germany (Reuter) – A family of four and the pilot were killed when a single-engine Cessna crashed here after a sightseeing flight round this Baltic port.

Drugs haul

San Juan, Puerton Rico (Reuter) – Thirty-three crew members were charged with drug offences after the US Coastguard discovered 22 tonnes of marijuana on board four ships in the Caribbean. One vessel was reported to be British.

Andes raid

Lima (Reuter) – Sendero Luminoso guerrillas killed three policemen and wounded four others in an attack on a police post in the Peruvian Andes. They escaped with uniforms and guns.

Agca verdict

Istanbul (AFP) – A turkish military court ruled against *in absentia* of the convicted terrorist, Ali Agca, now serving a life sentence in Italy for the attempted assassination of the Pope. He is already under sentence of death in Turkey for the murder of a journalist.

Sailor killed

Georgetown, Guyana (Reuter) – A South Korean sailor was killed when a Guyanese patrol boat fired on one of three foreign trawlers in its territorial waters. Guyanese troops boarded the trawlers.

Drop of time

Moscow (AP) - Soviet scientists have found a drop of water they estimate to be 50 million years old. It was "conserved in a small prism of rock crystal found by geologists" in the Pamir Mountains in Central Asia.

Minister is forced out in Spanish scandal

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

Señor Andrés Hernández, the Chief Minister of Murcia, one of Spain's autonomous regions, has resigned after a scandal over an aide attempting to bribe two journalists.

It is the first political scandal to break since the Socialist Party won power 15 months ago nationally and followed up with victory in many of the country's 17 new autonomous regions.

Señor Hernández has also announced his intention to resign as secretary-general of the local party.

Murcia Socialists opened an investigation yesterday to establish whether the money allegedly used to corrupt the journalist had come from party funds.

Armed with bank statements showing a payment in their favour of more than £2,000 to support their allegations two reporters of the Murcia newspaper *La Verdad* (*The Truth*) have alleged that the regional party's financial secretary arranged the deal to persuade them "to leave Andrés in peace".

The newspaper then published the story and court proceedings began against the aide. *La Verdad* criticized an earlier decision by the Mucia administration to increase the salaries of senior officials and members of the government this year by 17 per cent, exceeding the guidleines set by the Madrid Government for the public sector.

Two weeks ago Señor Rafael Escuredo, the Chief Minister of neighbouring Andalusia, also resigned after disagreements with Madrid over agrarian reform and the extent of his autonomy.

Dilemma for Polish bishops

Outspoken priests cause church rift

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

After the declaration of martial law two years ago, the parishioners of Ursus used to leave their homes as soon as the mendacious evening news appeared on the television screen, and ostentatiously promenade around the brokendown Warsaw suburb.

Sometimes they would end up in St Joseph's church were some of their unspoken thoughts about the Government would be voiced by Father Mieczyslaw Nowak, not the fiery "turbulent" priest one expects but a rather unworldly man with a heart complaint.

Father Nowak, as a lowly curate, guided the Ursus community through the darkest days of martial law. His personal allegiance to the ideals of the banned trade union Solidarity was never in doubt and he soon won the trust of the Ursus tractor workers whose factory was one of the first to be "militarized".

The troubles began quietly, gathering pace over the two years to present the Catholic Church with its current storm. Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the Primate, has decided to "promote" Father Nowak to a parish a long, bumpy two-hour drive away from Ursus where his controversial Masses for the Fatherland, his stinging criticism of the restricted political liberties in Poland, will fall on the ears of a handful of farmers rather than the volatile workers of Ursus.

The result in Ursus was a hunger strike – now suspended until the Primate returns from South America in 10 days time – and a minor propaganda coup for the Jaruzelski Government. For once, the problem in Poland seemed to be not about Church-State but Church-Church relations.

Father Nowak's case is typical of the problems facing radical, often virulently anti-communist priests with industrial parishes. The Polish authorities face huge tasks of persuasion with the workers: price rises, a new wage system that may well hurt average earnings, critical consumer shortages, a propaganda of sacrifice. In these worker centres – Ursus, the Huta Warszawa steelworks, the Nowa Huta steel complex, the Gdansk and other Baltic shipyards, the engine plant in Poznan, the light engineering works in Radom – there are invariably priests who sympathize with Solidarity, who are preaching sermons of "faith through suffering".

The priests involved tell their superiors that they are interpreting the Christian message in the way that is most appropriate for Poland. In Ursus, for example, the wife of an underground leader, Mr Zbigniew Janas, was – according to her own testimony – beaten up by policemen who were looking for her husband. There was anger in the community about this and it was Father Nowak's task not to ignore the anger but to channel it. His sermons have been tape-recorded for a year or more by the secret police and, his parishioners say, his contacts have been monitored.

The next step of the authorities is usually to issue a warning either to the Episcopate or to the local Bishop. It is then that a tricky problem of Church-State relations becomes a Curch-Church problem. Often the radical priest has difficult relations with his superior – in Father Novak's case with his parish priest, in Father Henryk Jankowski's case with Bishop Lech Kaczmarek of Gdansk

Kohl presses Reagan for an early summit

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, who wants an early resumption of the nuclear arms control negotiations and a US-Soviet summit meeting, yesterday met President Reagan here for talks on East-West relations and international economic and trading issues.

Herr Kohl has made it clear that a resumption of the US-Soviet arms control talks should not be held up until after the American presidential election on November 6.

In January President Reagan toned down his anti-Soviet rhetoric and has repeatedly called on the Kremlin to return quickly to the separate Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) negotiations and the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (Start) in Geneva. The Soviet Union broke off the INF negotiations in November after Nato started to deploy American cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in West Europe, and in December it indefinitely suspended the Start conference.

In a television interview here on Sunday, Herr Kohl favoured an early meeting between President Reagan and Mr Konstantin Chernenko, the new Soviet leader, but emphasized that it *must* be prepared carefully and must not be held for propaganda purposes.

Trevor Fishlock in Canada

Free French stirs up the bigots

Last year nine prisoners in Canadian jails complained officially that wardens could not speak to them in French. It takes time for the vision of a bilinqual Canada to take hold in every institution and, for the time being, porridge is not as French-flavoured as it might be.

Bilingualism is the way in which Canada seeks to wash the grit from its eye. It is part noble ideal, part practical remedy for the French-English friction that grew in the 1970s to be Canada's greatest crisis, and almost tore the country apart.

The grit is persistent, of course. The papers are full of language stories. While bilingualism is part of Canadian identiy, so is the argument about it.

In Manitoba there is an ugly outbreak of red-neckery over "this Frenchin' business", and the local Tory opposition is cynically harnessing phobias and rupturing the democratic process to get into power. Tolerance has decamped and the mounties are having to guard those who have received murder threats for espousing amity.

Bilingualism, underpinned by the law, aims to make Canada whole by recognizing the equality of the the two founding cultures enabling the citizen to choose his language in his dealings with the federal Government.

Air Canada, for example, has signs on its counters announcing it is pleased to serve you in the language of yours choice. Official forms and sign are bilingual, and so is the packaging of many goods in the shops. Much has been done, but there is still much to do.

Mr Pierre Trudeau fought separatism by persuading Quebecers that their destiny lay in Canada. He won against separatists who argued that French would be safe only in an independent Quebec.

But he was angered when the Parti Québecois Government made French paramount, the only offical language, and wiped English from the streets; it was a negation of the bilingual idea.

The changes wrought in Quebec over the past 20 years are profound. An anglophone Quebecer said: "The French Canadian has joined Canada. You have to know what it was like here to know how much has been done.

"When I was a boy I was amazed that a man who came to paint our house spoke English. In those days workmen were French-speakers. Today francophones are not second-class. Some English speakers gripe, but there has been a revolution."

Thousands of anglophones have deicded that bilingualism is part of being Canadian, and educate themselve and their children in French.

So far so good. But in Manitoba a protest over a parking ticket has grown into a vicious linguistic controversy. It started when a lawyer refused to pay a fine because his ticket was in English only.

He cites a Supreme Court ruling of 1979 that Manitoba had acted illegally in 1890 when it abolished an Act guaranteeing French rights. The ruling cast doubts on the validity of every law passed by the Manitoba Government since 1890.

To avert constitutional catastrophe, and the huge expense of translating every law, the New Democratic Party Government wants to get into bilingual line and offer basic French services to francophones.

The rub is that Manitoba has only a 6 per cent French-speaking population. There is a furious backlash among the majority, rooted in western resentment of Ottawa, and of French Canadians, old-fashioned backwoods bigotry and fear.

Some Quebecers are saying: "We told you so", and all Canada is watching this acid test of the Canadian ideal. It has the markings of dangerous conflict.

Beagle Channel deal negotiated

Buenos Aires (Reuter) – Argentina and Chile have negotiated a draft treaty to settle the Beagle Channel dispute, an issue that brought them to the brink of war in 1978, Argentine Foreign Ministry sources said yesterday.

Delegation leaders would now return home from the Vatican to brief their Governments; the signing of a formal [illegible] was only a matter of time.

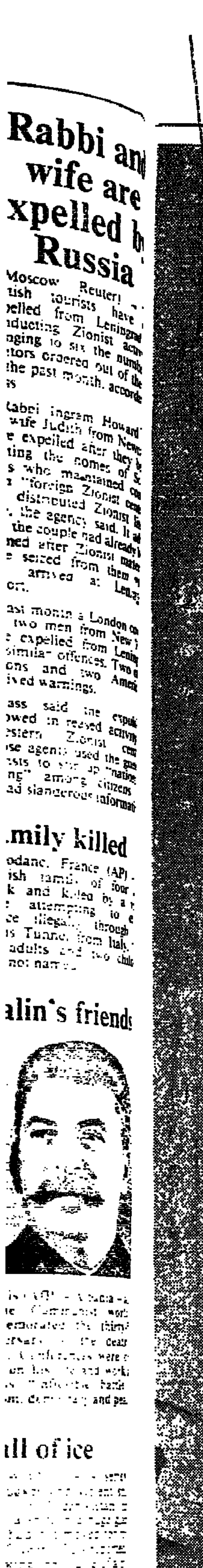
The vatican ha been mediating between Argentina and Chile for five years to solve the dispute over several small islands each country claims in the Beagle Channel at the southern tip of South America. A breakthrough followed the end of military rule in Argentina and democratic elections in December.

The draft treaty grants all the disputed islands and 12 miles of offshore waters to Chile. Argentina will have jurisdiction over offshore waters in the Atlantic beyond this limit.

In Santiago, Chilean Foreign Ministry sources said the negotiators had made significant progress

He added that although the Vatican talks had produced agreement on substantive issues there might still be other points outstanding.

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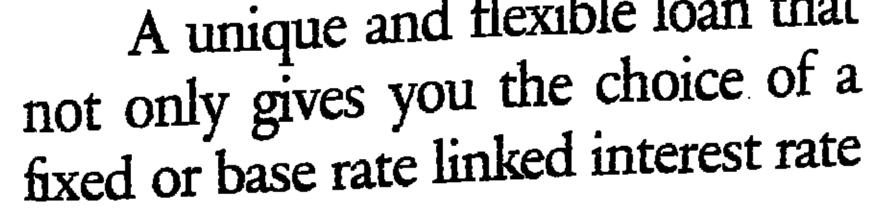
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Perfect launch of Ariane boosts challenge to space shuttle

Paris (Reuter) – The European Space Agency Ariane rocket reaffirmed its claim as a serious contender in the booming commercial space market yesterday when perfect launch put the world's biggest civilian telecommunication satellite into orbit.

The 137ft rocket blasted off from its launch pad in the French Guiana jungle on schedule at 00.50 GMT, and afterwards a jubilant agency official at the tracking station at Evry, near Paris, said: "Superb. The best ever launch. No breaks, no incidents, the countdown was perfect."

About 16 minutes after lift-off the 4,100lb Intelsat V/F8 orbiter, capable of handling 12,000 simultaneous telephones calls and two colour television channels, separated from the rocket. It will be pushed into a fixed orbit 115 miles above the earth over the next few days.

The launch was the eighth in the Ariane series, and followed last October's succesful launch of another V-series orbiter for the Washington-based International satellite Telecommunications Orgainzation.

Yesterday's launch delighted European Space Agency officials because they were able to use the first of three available "windows" in space, unlike last October, when a technical hitch delayed attempts to hit the first slot. A "window" represents the optimum chance for the launcher to put the satellite in the correct position for its orbit.

Ariane's success comes soon after the failure of the two satellites launched by the last US space shuttle mission last month.

Mr Daniel Mujnier, the deputy technical director of the Ariane launch programme, said: "Now it has become a routine for us. We have acquired the industrial technique".

A spokesman for Airianespace, the commercial organization set up to market Ariane as a commercial launcher on behalf of the 11-nation European Space Agency, said they now had a firm order book worth 6.1 billion francs (£508m).

"This represents 27 satellites for 14 different clients, and 40 per cent of them are outside Europe. We also have reservations for 18 satellites up to 1899-1989," the spokesman added.

Ariane's next launch will be in May, when it will put up the Spacenet civil telecommunications satellite for a private customer.

In July a more powerful Airiane III rocket will put two satellites into orbit at once, both for European customers.

Leading article, page 15

Opposition pulls out of Bangladesh elections

Dhaka (Reuter) – Opposition attempts to disrupt rural elections called by the Bangladesh military Government gathered momementum yesterday when election authorities announced the withdrawal of 499 candidates.

The two main alliances of opposition parties announced at the weekend that elections would be held "over our dead bodies" and declared that March 24, the proposed date for the polls, would be "black day".

The alliances said the number of withdrawals would have been much begger if candidates had not been prevented from taking back their papers. They said that in many centres guards refused to let candidates enter election offices.

The opposition, headed by Shaikh Hasina Wazed and Begum Khaleda Zia, have called for a boyxott of the rural elections, saying they would create a new power base for the military ruler, President Hossain Muhammad Ershad.

They said the elections were designed to delay a transition to democracy and frustrate other oppositon demands, including the holding of parliamentary elections before the rural polls.

● Leader held: Police have arrested Mr Rafiqul Islam, a leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its publicity secretary (AFP report).

Another two prominent alliance politicans are reported to have been held: Shah Azizur Rahman of the BNP and Mr Abdul Mannan of the Awami League..





Peasant progress: Cooperative agrarian reform is the cornerstone of the Sandinista policy to rebuild the country.

Marxist recipe for economic recovery

*In the second of two articles on Nicaragua, **Alan Tomlinson** in Managua examines the precarious state of the economy.*

"I see discontent everywhere", says Comandante of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock, Nicaragua's Minister for Agrarian Reform, whose task of transforming the countryside lies at the very heart of the Sandinista revolution.

After the insurrection which toppled the Somozas regime in 1979, the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) found an alarming situation. Small farms of less than 17 acres accounted for 40 per cent of all properties but only two per cent of the land, while larger estates of more than 860 acres accounted for just two per cent of properties yet occupied 47 per cent of the land.

Some of the worst social consequences have been partly alleviated: a 12 per cent mortality rate has been reduced to nine per cent, and 60 per cent illiteracy (68 per cent in the countryside) has been slashed to 12 per cent.

As well as the ravages of an earthquake and a war, the Sandinistas inherited a shattered economy utterly dependent on foreign capital, a $1.6 billion (£1.1 billion) external debt requiring interest payments in excess of total export earnings, and a flight of capital to Miami which left only $3.5m in reserves

"It is difficult to be content in a country that has been destroyed", says Comandante Wheelock. "We have had two national disasters and all within the context of an international economic crisis and aggression from no less a power than the United States.

"But it is one thing to be discontented and another to be against the revolution. The people are aware of what is going on. They understand and they know that we will solve the problems."

US hostility has not only cost Nicaragua American aid and a great deal of international credit, but has unleashed upon the country an armed counter-revolution, the main target of which has been the 3,500 farming cooperatives set up since the revolution. Of 473 *campesinos* killed by the "Contras" last year, 75 per cent were from the cooperatives.

Export earning last year of $400m were dwarfed by an import bill roughly twice as large.

Agrarian reform is the cornerstone not just of any hopes that Nicaragua has of emerging from economic catastrophe but also of the Sandinastas' hopes of maintaining grass roots support among peasants and workers.

Confiscated land has been redistributed as state farms, and also as private cooperatives and individual plots served centrally with machinery, technical advise and irrigation projects. But land ownership for the peasants has brought its own headaches, reducing the seasonally-unemployed workforce which traditionally harvested the dollar-earning coffee and cotton crops.

Conscription of up to 40,000 peasants into the militias to fight the contras has exacerbated the problem. Estimates put the lost harvest at between 20 and 40 per cent.

"At the centre of our agricultural strategy is irrigation", says Comandante Wheelock. "With 40,000 hectares (98,000 acres) of our flat lands irrigated and year-round planting of maize for domestic consumption alongside cotton for export we can feed the country.

This year Nicaragua will invest $300m in agriculture, more ethan any other country in the region. But last December two of its immediate neighbours, plus Colombia and Mexico, virtually ceased doing business with the Sandinistas after they failed to stump up a single dollar to settle their biennial accouts.

The country lives a precarous hand-to-mouth existence. Oil industry sources say stocks of lubricants may run out within weeks, bringing the nation to a standstill.

When a textile plant ground to a halt through lack of foreign exchange to replace worn fibre cogs, an imaginative worker made some by melting down plastic drainpipes. But when an engineer, responding to the same national campaign to encourage innovation, kept an aircraft in service by cannibalizing whatever was to hand the plane crashed, killing a senior government official and 14 others on board.

Concluded

Costa Rica takes hard line on Nicaragua

From Martha Honey
San José, Costa Rica

Despite an official policy of neutrality, Costa Rica is yeilding to pressure from conservative government officials and the US to take a hard line against neighbouring Nicaragua and to ease restrictions on anti-Sandinista guerrilla activities.

A Nicaraguan mortar attack inside Costa Rica two weeks ago, has given an excuse for the authorities to whip up anti-Nicaraguan sentiments and to remove an official who had been restricting the activities of Arde (Democratic Revolutionary Alliance).

Over the past week officials have turned a blind eye to the presence in San José of two top Arde commanders – Edén Pastora and Fernando "El Negro" Chamorro – both of whom were previously expelled from Costa Rica because of guerrilla activities.

The Government announced over the weekend that Senõr Chamorro had been arrested at a local airport and deported to Panama. But an Arde spokesman told the press that Señor Chamorro had not been expelled and was instead meeting Señor Pastora "in the mountains of southern Nicaragua" – a euphemism Arde often uses to indicate that its leaders are really inside Costa Rica.

The dismissed official, Colonel Riguberto Badilla, director-general of the rural guard, has said that unless he is reinstated he will release compromising documents linking other officials to Arde.

Costa Rica has also announced for the first time it is seeking anti-tank rocket launchers, mortars and rifles



E Germany: Armin Phillip

By Caroline Moorhead

When Armin Phillip, a 27-year-old worker in a Christian hostel, received his final summons to report for military service he sent back a card to the military authorities with the words "Create peace without weapons".

Phillip is a pacifist belonging to an unofficial peace movement in the GDR.

In November 1982 Phillip was arrested. Before the military authorities he declared that he refused to do his military service. While some provision exists under GDR law for those who object "for religious or similar reasons" to armed military service, all alternative work in "construction units" has to be carried out within the country's military and defence system. Those who refuse to join these units are sent to prison.



Herr Philip

Zia sacks three senior Cabinet ministers

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan dropped three of his Cabinet ministers from the Government on Sunday and left their vacancies unfilled.

General Zia had removed two of his most senior army colleagues on Saturday and replaced them with two others who could be regarded as closer to him since he seized power in July, 1977.

The three dismissed ministers are retired Major-General Rao Farman Ali; the Petroleum Minister, Mr Nawab Abbasi, of the former Bahkalpur state, Religious Affairs Minister, and Dr Naseeruddin Jogezai, the Health Minister. Their removal was not explained in a short statement, which said that General Zia had reshuffled his cabinet.

● Chinese visit: President Li Xiannian of China arrived here today for a four-day state visit that may herald new diplomatic initiatives against the Soviet presence in Afganistan and Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia (AP reports).

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MEN'S FASHION by Suzy Menkes



shoes for summer.

moccasins follow on.

On the safari trail come desert

boots and khaki

Texture is the factor.

■ Lattice leather basket work, or plaits decorate the new shoes. This tooled leather loafer in sea blue, white or brown has thong and plait details. By Hobbs £34.99 from 47 South Molton Street W1, 9 Hampstead High Street NW3, 33a, and 84 Kings Road SW3 and Guildford High Street.

■ The safari boot is a big step away from desert ankle boots. It comes in leather or roughened suede mixed with canvas. This textured leather ankle boot in tan or sand beige, £45 from Katrina, 2 South Molton Street, and 124 Kings Road SW3.

■ The new classic slip-on shoe is the loafer with the attention drawn to the uppers. This leather loafer with slatted over-tongue and cross strap detail. In navy or tan £59.99 from Bertie, 48 South Molton Street and branches.

Illustrations: MICHAEL DAVIDSON

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SPECTRUM

THE KINNOCK STORY

Even before it began, it was obvious that Kinnock would win the battle for Foot's succession. Peter Gillman explains how the young, inexperienced contender became everyone's favourite with a series of union and constituency victories

Clearing the lines of leadership



The new leader: Roy Hattersley and Michael Foot applaud the victorious Kinnock at Labour's 1983 conference

On the eve of the 1983 general election, Roy Hattersley thought he was going to be the next leader of the Labour Party. He calculated that in the forthcoming leadership election, the left's vote would be split between Kinnock and Benn. Kinnock would be eliminated, and he would win the run-off. But then he heard Benn had lost in Bristol East – and knew that his hopes had gone.

Kinnock's supporters assert today that he would have beaten Hattersley, Benn or no Benn. Before the general election, some were not so sure. A group of left-wing leaders was already considering what to do if Benn survived in Bristol. They had in mind a deal: if Benn stood down against Kinnock, they would back him for the deputy.

Kinnock himself was scarcely confident of victory. On general election day, one of his constituency workers, Gwyn Evans, learned that a local bookie was offering 33-1 against Kinnock becoming Labour leader. He was on the point of drawing out his life-savings of £1,000 when Kinnock warned him sternly against placing the bet. Evans now rues accepting that advice. "You only get a chance like that once in a lifetime", he says.

If in retrospect Kinnock's election victory seems a formality, those involved say that it did not seem so at the time. That is hard to credit when the margin – 71 per cent to 19 per cent – was so resounding. But it does appear that all who took part underestimated Kinnock's strengths – including Kinnock himself.

Some cynical Labour members see Kinnock's triumph as the culmination of a scheming ambition that was conceived, so one MP remarked, "in his mother's womb". But while Kinnock admits he was ambitious – "holy I am not" – he most emphatically denies any "long-term contrivance".

True, there has at times been an intriguing ambiguity about Kinnock's actions, with his short-term aims often proving to suit more distant goals. But that can equally demonstrate the sureness of his political instincts; he has also been blessed with considerable luck. And although he also received the eager support of Michael Foot, that has at times been a mixed blessing – and was not always quite what it seemed.

The first advancement Foot provided was in 1974, when as Secretary of State for Employment he appointed Kinnock his PPS. This, however, was an act less of patronage than of rescue. Kinnock had been asked to become PPS to Ted Short, deputy leader of the Labour Party. Having no wish to do so, Kinnock told Short he had already agreed to work for Foot – and then persuaded Foot to take him on. Foot readily concedes that Kinnock was not ideal for the post. The job, he explains, "is best done by people prepared to efface themselves, and nobody has ever accused Neil of that".

Yet Kinnock did have more substantial ambitions at that time. He complained to Wilson, then Prime Minister, of the quality of a minister in the Welsh office. When Wilson told him "there's nobody else", a miffed Kinnock replied: "Thank you very much". However, when Jim Callaghan offered him junior posts – first in the Department of Industry, later in Prices and Consumer Protection – he turned them down.

Kinnock explained later that his opposition to Callaghan was so fundamental, particularly over limits on public expenditure and plans for devolution in Wales, that it would have been "counterfeit" to accept. His wife Glenys was no less hostile to Callaghan, warning Kinnock: "He's trying to shut you up".

How Kinnock set the seal on his loyalty

Rejecting those offers has, of course, exposed Kinnock to the criticism that he lacks administrative experience. His supporters–most notably Denis Healey–now compare him with Kennedy in that respect; Kinnock's favourite analogy is Tito.

Yet there were important compensations. Since becoming MP, Kinnock had almost invariably accepted invitations to speak at local party meetings or to teach at trade union schools. Instead of toiling unseen in Whitehall, he remained free to do so. That work among Labour's grassroots, plus his rousing speeches at annual conferences, won Kinnock a seat on Labour's National Executive Committee in 1978.

In 1979, following Labour's election defeat, Foot persuaded Callaghan to appoint Kinnock education spokesman. In the Commons, Kinnock performed ably enough. But 1979 also saw the start of Labour's traumas, fatal to its chances in the 1983 general election. From them Kinnock was to emerge as Labour's leader.

Kinnock was among those who persuaded Foot to run as leader in 1980 because he was the only candidate who could beat Denis Healey. But Foot still favoured Shore as his successor. Kinnock, he says, was "hardly in the running".

Foot changed his mind during the bitter internal struggles that racked the party during the next two years.

Kinnock backed him consistently in his battles with Benn on the NEC and set the seal on his loyalty when he informed Foot that the Bennites were holding caucus meetings beforehand. The nadir of Foot's relations with Benn was reached when Foot confronted Benn with the charge; later Foot wearily asked if it might not be possible that *something* he had to say during an NEC meeting could influence one of Benn's decisions.

By now, a fissure had opened on the left, with a group cohering around Kinnock that became known as the "soft left". The schism was formalized during the deputy leadership contest in November, 1981, when Kinnock and his colleagues abstained from voting, costing Benn the prize. Afterwards Kinnock continued to back Foot through thick and thin, even in his opposition to the Bermondsey candidate, Peter Tatchell, although privately he felt Foot had gone too far.

That brought a rebuke from Glenys, who told him that she could understand him backing Foot out of loyalty, but he shouldn't justify his action in terms of higher moral principles. By then Foot had concluded that Kinnock, not Shore, should be his successor. Kinnock, he says, "played a leading part in attempting to stop the party splitting". And his seat on the NEC – evidence of a constituency power base, which Shore lacked – was "an absolutely major factor".

Meanwhile, with the defections to the SDP, Labour's centre of gravity had shifted in Kinnock's favour. And those on the right still in the party were taking a new view of Kinnock. The former MP, Philip Whitehead, says it was clear by then that he was "not just an easy-going Welsh boyo" but someone "with steel in his character".

As his supporters tell it, it was in November, 1982, that Kinnock decided to make his eventual bid for the leadership. Kinnock had asked Foot for promotion from his education post several months before, but when Foot asked his employment spokesman, Eric Varley, to step down in Kinnock's favour, he refused to budge. Kinnock was enraged by Varley's intransigence, and swore that he would "go for broke." But he has also confided that he thought then Hattersley would win.

Elsewhere, however, preparations for his victory were being unwittingly laid. Following boundary changes, there had been anxious manoeuvering in Bristol for the solitary safe seat, Bristol South. The contenders were Labour's chief whip, Michael Cocks, and Tony Benn. Cocks was fortunate in having assistance from the maverick right-wing MP John Golding, adept at advising his friends how to maximize their support on Labour selection committees. It was clear by the end of the year that Cocks would win.

The signs favouring Kinnock were now sufficiently strong for other informed observers to take note. The American Embassy concluded it was time it got to know Kinnock, and he dined with the deputy chief of mission, Ed Streator, at his official residence, Wychwood, in Kensington. Kinnock also met the head of the embassy's political and military department, Dick McCormack. The Americans concluded that Kinnock was a bright, shrewd politician with a high learning curve, who was definitely "educable" about the constraints he would face in office.

In 1983, however, as a general election loomed, there were two attempts to pre-empt the leadership contest that would follow. The first came in February, when there were headlines of a plot to install Healey in Foot's place. MPs on the right now aver that the move was taken more seriously by the press than by the party itself.

Three months later, however, there was a second move to replace Foot, this time from the left, that has so far gone unreported. It came just as the general election was announced, when the Shadow Cabinet, NEC, and trade unions held an emergency conference at the General and Municipal Workers' college at Long Ditton in Surrey on May 6-7.

The move was proposed by Clive Jenkins, who suggested that Labour should "do a Hawke" and follow the example of the Australian Labour Party, which had won a general election by switching its leader. The man to replace Foot was Kinnock.

Jenkins' proposal was considered in some secrecy by a group of union leaders on the left of the party, who included Moss Evans (TGWU), Bill Keys (SOGAT '82), Alan Sapper (ACTAT), Ray Buckton (ASLEF), Rodney Bickerstaffe (NUPE), Jimmy Knapp (NUR), and Ken Cameron (FBU). Among those emphatically *not* consulted were Bill Sirs of the ISTC and Terry Duffy of the AUEW who, the others felt, would have been adamantly opposed to the scheme, and might have leaked it to the press. News of it did reach Kinnock, but not Foot.

His appearance and his manner impressed

The discussion proved shortlived: "the party had taken its decision", one general secretary explains, and to change leaders at that stage would have been constitutionally very awkward. Nor could much personal enthusiasm for "the sharp removal" be found. But the corollary of the discussion proved equally significant. "People were beginning to exercise their minds on what to do afterwards – and that's where it all began to come together for Neil."

But that conclusion carried further implications. What would happen if Benn survived in Bristol? As a second general secretary explains, some members of the group felt Benn "might just do it" – and if he then ran for the leadership, a split in the left's vote could let Hattersley through. They considered backing Benn for deputy if he would stand down from the leadership. Although this was "all hypothetical", there was "some relief" when the electors of Bristol rendered such calculations superfluous.

Both Kinnock and his campaign team now assert that he would have won a three-cornered contest – and a telling point in their favour is the extent in which Kinnock had moved into Hattersley's own territory on the centre-right with his solid political groundwork over the years.

A typical union convert was Bill Whatley of USDAW, swayed by Kinnock's performance at his union's annual conference in 1982: "He most certainly did impress our conference, not only by the contribution he made but also by his appearance and general manner".

Meanwhile even Hattersley's own supporters had reservations about him. His power base supposedly lay in the gathering of right-wing MPs and trade unionists known as the St Ermin's group. But some felt he had "minus marks" against him – cited most graphically by the electricians' leader Frank Chappell, who roundly declared that Hattersley had "no balls".

On general election night, Kinnock won further support for his televised composure in the face of defeat, confirming the grateful Labour view that here was an able media performer.

As the leadership contest unfolded, Kinnock won a series of victories in the constituencies and in the unions, where every members' ballot bar one went his way. Hattersley had most support among MPs, but Kinnock's team ensured his majority there by persuading waverers to back a winning cause.

Although Kinnock's supporters now profess relief at the size of his victory, it cannot have come as a total surprise. For they had the further advantage over Hattersley of a computer, which was programmed to predict who would win. It was asked this question many times, one campaigner recalls. "And every time it answered: Neil."

TOMORROW:

The leadership honeymoon

moreover... Miles Kington

Q & A on GCHQ

How good are you at following and interpreting news headlines? When Tony Benn is returned to a parliamentary seat with a reduced majority and a reduced share of the poll, are you puzzled when it is hailed as a great Labour victory and the start of the world revolution? Or can you take it in your stride?

Here is an exercise based on the last week's news to see how good you are.

Easy:

1. Last Tuesday's day of action was greeted as "a triumph" and also as "a disaster". The TUC is responsible for one statement and the Government for the other. But which said which?

2. "They fought like animals. It was utterly sickening." Was this (a) English soccer supporters in Paris (b) Cheltenham GCHQ workers rushing for their £1,000 (c) Derek Jameson's lawyers looking for their fees?

Moderate:

1. Tony Benn will not be moving to Chesterfield from Bristol. Why? (a) The tea merchants in Bristol are that much better (b) It is too far from the nearest BBC studio (c) He doesn't live in Bristol: he lives in London W11.

2. How much do you think the *News of the World* is paying Derek Jameson for his exclusive story?

3. If you were a worker at Cheltenham GCHQ, what would there be to stop you from taking your £1,000, then resigning and getting another job? (a) Decent loyalty (b) The *Official Secrets Act* (c) *Your* superior in Moscow.

4. What is very unusual about the first Test between England and Pakistan? (a) It is the first ever to be played on the same day that England arrived in the host country (b) It is the first ever to be played on an aircraft in transit from New Zealand (c) *It is the first ever to be played under* Islamic law.

5. Is Caspar Weinberger (a) A fruity young German wine (b) A political party that came eleventh at Chesterfield (c) That nice Dutchman we met last year in Mallorca, you remember.

Harder:

1. When the England cricket team's plane was held up in Australia with engine failure, how did Bob Willis react? (a) He sent home to England for a substitute engine to be rushed out (b) He blamed it on the condition of the ground (c) He said that *any aircraft could go through an out-of-*form period, it was just one of those things, it was sheer bad luck and certainly nobody on the English side was to blame.

2. If Derek Jameson had won his case and been vindicated as a civilized, literary type, would he have been sued by the *News of the World* on the grounds that he had been an unsuitable editor?

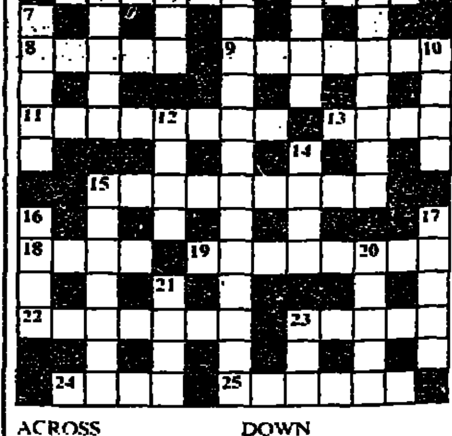
Impossible:

1. Mrs Thatcher has made the trade unions popular overnight, previously thought impossible to achieve, by her handling of Cheltenham. The police have made a similar bid for popularity by recommending laxer speed limits on motorways. Can you suggest ways in which popularity could be achieved by (a) *Solicitors* (b) *Charlton Athletic* (c) TV-am (d) Princess Michael of Kent?

2. Last week *The Times* promised a piece on "How Tony Benn Fought the Media and Won", to be printed the next day. The next day, however, *The Times* did not appear because of trade union action. Sketch a speech for Tony Benn in which he proves that this was a plot by the media owners.

3. If the GLC is abolished, will London (a) Stop being a nuclear-free zone (b) Be closed down as unprofitable (c) Sold off to private industry (d) Be given back to the Chinese by the Foreign Office?

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 284)



ACROSS
1 Sweet child (6)
5 *Fourth Gospel (4)*
8 Yearned (5)
9 Perceptible to ear (7)
11 Passenger strap (8)
13 *Celebrity (4)*
15 Yellow-crowned warbler (9)
18 Coarse Eastern spirit (4)
19 *Long traffic jam (5)*
22 Food constituent (7)
23 Delight (5)
24 Snare (4)
25 Animal offspring (6)

DOWN
2 Red dye (5)
3 *Make free (3)*
4 Tierra del Fuego strait (6,7)
5 Punch's wife (4)
6 Natural area (7)
7 *Muscle* contractions (5)
10 Jewish law scribe (4)
12 Main part (4)
14 *Ship's time signal* (4)
15 Allure (7)
16 Sloping floor (4)
17 Small boat (5)
20 Entertain (5)
21 Shed tears (4)
23 Incision (3)

SOLUTION TO No 283
ACROSS: 1 Abracadabra 9 Impound 10 Rummy 11 Era 13 Coda 16 Tape 17 Salome 18 Mash 20 Mean 21 Tundra 22 Pear 23 Plot 25 Mss 28 Cause 29 Plastic 30 Gatecrasher
DOWN: 2 Biped 3 Ague 4 Aide 5 Aura 6 Rummage 7 Circumspect 8 Cybernetics 12 Remedy 14 Ash 15 Clouds 19 Spatula 20 Map 24 Lube 25 Mete 26 Spur 27 Jaws

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THE ARTS

Jane Alexander has been nominated for so many awards that she should be one of America's best-paid stars. She *is not.* **Joan Goodman** talks to her about her latest film, *Testament* which opens in London this week

Out on the last frontier



Jane Alexander: nuclear fears

If Oscar nominations or Tony Awards were represented monetarily in the United States, Jane Alexander would be one of the highest-paid actresses in the business. And that she is not. She has engaged her talent in some of the best projects to come out of the cinema, television and the theatre. Her films – *The Great White Hope, All the President's Men, Kramer vs. Kramer,* for all of which she received Oscar nominations – have been seen in Britain; so has some of her television work: *Eleanor and Franklin,* and its sequel, and *Playing for Time.* Most of her work, however, is on the New York stage or in regional theatre. She won a Best Actress Tony for the original stage production of *Great White Hope.*

"If I'm not on the stage once a year I get very nervous. It's my home," says Ms Alexander from her comfortable, riverview apartment on Manhattan's West Side before she leaves for the Roundabout Theatre, where she is performing in Harold Pinter's *Old Times* with Anthony Hopkins and Marsha Mason.

For her performance in the anti-nuclear war film *Testament,* which opens at the Plaza this week, she has received yet another Oscar nomination. "I think it's Shirley MacLaine's year," says Alexander candidly, "but I'm so happy to be nominated because the film hasn't been released in many cities and now it will probably get more attention."

In *Testament,* Alexander plays Carol Wetherly, the mother of three children. She is sorting out the usual family crises when a nuclear explosion occurs in northern California. It is one of the strengths of the film that the exact nature of the explosion is never described. We do not know if it is an enemy strike or an accident.

Alexander is an appropriate actress to play Carol Wetherly. She is an active member of Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament, a group founded by Dr Helen Caldicott. "Five years ago I was having a recurring nightmare," says Alexander, "which curiously was *Testament.* We have four boys and we used to go on camping trips a lot when they were little. My nightmare was that we were coming out of the woods near where we lived in upstate New York after a three-day camping trip. When we reached the road it was filled with people moving north, walking and a few cars. I said, what's going on? And they showed me a headline in *The New York Times* that said a 400-mile cloud of radiation is blanketing the North-East and the county where I lived was being evacuated.

"I had the nightmare over and over again for a year. It was causing me real problems. Then one day I was in Boston and I knew Helen Caldicott lived there and I called her up and told her I wanted to join this new women's organization. Once I got active, my nightmare disappeared. And when *Testament* came up, it was déja vu, I'd already been there."

Curiously, the director, Lynne Littman, had been at college with Alexander. "We're not close. I had directed Lynn in a play at college but that was more than 20 years ago and I haven't seen her since. I didn't know what she was doing. [She was making award-winning documentaries.] She called me up out of the blue and said I've optioned a story by Carol Amen that was in *Ms* magazine. I said I know the story, I don't know your work but count me in.

Funding for the film came from the American Playhouse Television company, whose product regularly appears on the *Public Broadcast Network in* the US. Paramount Pictures picked it up for theatrical distribution. It ran into some resistance at the box office when the TV drama *The Day After* was shown.

Born and brought up in Boston, Alexander knew she wanted to be an actress by the time she was six. "It was a strong feeling. I loved to perform." She came by the ambition honestly. "My Dad, a surgeon, was involved with a group called the University *Players in Falmouth,* Massachusetts, which included Henry Fonda and Jimmy Stewart. My dad was Bart Quigley and he and Hank Fonda went to Omaha Central high school together. My dad's family comes from South Dakota and Nebraska. *My great-grandfather* came from Ireland to South Dakota and then my grandfather grew up in North Platte, Nebraska, and he was Buffalo Bill's doctor.

"I became a western nut. I love the early West so when I was looking for a project that I could produce, I focused on Calamity Jane. I have been researching her life for the past four or five years; it's really fun. She was a marvellous woman who played all the roles a woman could play 100 years ago and many men's roles as well. She was a nurse, a mother, a wife, pony express rider, stage coach driver, scout for the army, a crack shot and more than a little outrageous. Not the image that has passed on to us in Doris Day or Jean Arthur."

Expansion into production is possible, Alexander says, because the four children that she and her second husband Ed Sherin, a director, share, are all grown-up. "They take care of me now and when I was making *Testament* they were a help. It was such a difficult film. There came a point while playing the scenes when I said I'm not going to get through this, I'm going to break down. There seemed no place to escape. Then one night at the dinner table, our youngest, Jon, said the reason he wanted to be a neuroscientist is that he wanted to find ways to neutralize atomic energy and also to find out where aggression comes from in human behaviour.

"And if you think about it, the last frontier is the brain. Kids these days have already accepted that there's going to be a nuclear accident. What they want our generation to do is stave it off, buy time until their generation makes the discoveries.

"I found after that I had hope, like a thing with feathers, on my shoulders all the time."

Galleries

Finding a place in the world

Peter Potworowski
Bloomsbury Galleries 1 and 2

Gabriel Glikman
Wylma Wayne Fine Art

Neil Welliver
Marlborough Fine Art

The idea of exile, especially some kind of political exile, is a sure sympathy-trap. Somehow concern over the artist's plight and opposition to whatever drove him from his homeland tend to spill over into required approval of his work, as though to point out its shortcomings is somehow to break faith with all that is liberal and good and decent. Unfortunately, the nicest chaps, with their hearts in the rightest places, are not necessarily the best artists, and an uncomfortable awareness of this leads sooner or later to a *secondary mistrust, in which* artists who fall awkwardly between two national stools are tacitly allowed to stay there.

To complicate matters, this last misfortune can happen even to very good artists whose only drawback is that they just do not fit in.

Like **Peter Potworowski,** whose work is being given a well-deserved and long-overdue retrospective at the Bloomsbury Galleries 1 and 2 of the University of London Institute of Education for, alas, a bare three weeks, until March 13. It is possible that the name rings a few distant bells for people whose memories of British painting go back to the 1940s and 1950s, since that is the period when he was exhibiting most frequently in this country as a Polish artist in Britain or, quite simply, as a British artist.

Even then, he was something of an odd *bird.* Looking at the richly coloured, powerfully formalized landscapes from the 1950s in this show, you can see immediately when they date from, and make all kinds of connexions. But it would be difficult to assign them to any specific *national* school or group. Which is understandable when you consider that Potworowski was born in Warsaw in 1898, *left for Paris in 1924* with a group of young Polish artists eager to steep themselves in Impressionism on the spot, but instead discovered Léger all by himself, went back to Poland in 1930 and had a highly successful career there until the German invasion drove him first to Sweden, then to Britain, where he remained until going back to Poland and a new triumph in 1958, for the last four years of his life.

Neil Welliver's *Storm's End and Sunlight:* reassuringly beautiful and romantic rather than disturbingly modernist

Such a complicated and peripatetic existence (which leaves out shorter periods in Germany, Italy and Spain) indicates just why he is difficult to pigeonhole. Or rather why nobody has tried very seriously in the last few years to find out where he fits in, except the Poles, who correctly regard him as a modern master.

He would be difficult to *pigeonhole anyway because of* his extreme individuality of vision: shown any one of his better paintings – and there are two large halls full of them – you would be aware immediately of seeing a major talent at work, and really hard put to it to guess who it might be. Except for a handful of vibrantly coloured near-abstracts which date from after his return to Poland, all the works here come from his British years, and most of them take the bare bones of a landscape or an interior to clothe them in a non-representational coat of many colours.

There are, it is true, occasional works which suggest friendly relations with St Ives, and one, *The Black Boat* of 1957, even seems to indicate that he may have studied the work of the St Ives group's spiritual godfather Alfred Wallis. Yet the taste for rich Post-*Impressionist colouring points* towards France, the occasional eruption of collage remindes us of Potworowski's early *acquaintance with the classic* Cubists, and the tendency of his landscapes to break out in brilliant diamonds and triangles *of colour is entirely his own.*

Most impressive of all, though, is the way the show hangs together: the diverse influences and affinities are all fused into something very personal and unmistakable, whether Potworowski is painting *Battersea Park* or a *Ghetto in Warsaw,* a pair of girls making music or ducks in a French village street, or indeed a complete abstract like *Horizontal Elements* of 1958.

If his initial situation in Britain led to some largely irrelevant attention as one of our Free Polish allies fighting beside us, and the inderminacy *of his national status led just as* irrelevantly to neglect, now seems like a good time to take a clear unprejudiced look at him and *give him the place he* deserves on artistic merit only.

The situation of **Gabriel Glikman** in relation to exile is rather *different: in a sense he* has reached only stage one, appearing before us in the flattering guise of a Russian *non-conformist who chose free*dom – and very recently at that, in 1980 at the age of 67. Glikman was trained as an *architect, then a sculptor, and* through the years had many major successes in the Soviet Union as a sculptor, with a lot of *officially* approved portrait busts and monuments to his credit.

His painting seems to have been something he did largely to please himself; it certainly did not please the authorities, and his only one-man show as a painter in Russia (1968) was closed after just three days. Maybe half the paintings at Wylma Wayne Fine Art (until March 16) were brought with him out of Russia; the rest, mostly slightly caricatural portraits, have painted since.

The problem, once we have got over the apparent boldness of this informal handling of culture-heroes in the Soviet *Union today, is to decide how* good the work actually is. There are some immediately striking images, like the familiar portrait *of Glikman's friend Rostropo*vich, which do not really transcend caricature, and there is often a coarseness of effect *which seems involuntary,* arising perhaps from sketchy technique. Easy to say that there is a real talent here, uncertainly channelled, and suggest that he is possibly no more as a painter than a sculptor who dabbles.

And yet, there are two *splendid – and very painterly –* landscapes, *Homage to the Moon* and *Der Krieg,* and the odd non-portrait painting, like *Abraham and Isaac,* shows a strong, and unconventional sense of composition and a real painter's feeling for the materials.

It would be interesting to know how he was painting – for surely he must have been – before 1960. Equally, it would be interesting to know how these paintings will strike us in a few years' time, when the topical issues have ceased to affect us one way or the other.

At least we know where we are with **Neil Welliver,** a stay-at-home artist as American as English muffins and French toast. He was born 54 years ago in Pennsylvania, where he studied and later (until last year, in fact) taught, and for some years he has lived and worked in Maine. He may have studied in the meantime with Josef Albers and be conversant with the intricacies of modern colour theory, but his pictures first strike one as super-realist landscapes, rendering the snowy slopes or sun-dappled woodland glades of Maine with an almost obsessive concern for detail.

The catalogue of the recent work currently on show at Marlborough Fine Art (until March 31) firmly insists that once he has taken in this impression, "the hoodwinked viewer receives the spine-jarring upper cut to the jaw from modernism and lands spread-cagled on the canvas". (Sounds like a rather unhelpful place to be in relation to a painting.

Maybe yes, maybe no. Certainly no artistic innocent would know how to render the *optical effect of falling snow* quite so precisely, but the overall result is reassuringly beautiful and romantic rather than nerve-shatteringly modernist.

John Russell Taylor

Television

Nothing was what it seemed to be in the field of contraception research, as **Panorama** (BBC 1) revealed it last night. For *instance, the well-established* increase in the incidence of cervical cancer among women who had had multiple sexual *partners came under scrutiny by* the programme's reporter, Margaret Jay. She asked a professor what "multiple" meant *in this context. He* replied that it meant more than one sexual partner; and could even mean one sexual partner if he had himself had multiple partners.

This gem of *Alice in Wonderland* logic was only one of the hoard of anomalies and contradictions which the programme revealed. Its overt purpose was to investigate the basis of last autumn's scare about the long-term effects of the contraceptive Pill. This followed the publication in *The Lancet* of findings by Professor Malcolm Pike and Professor Martin Vessey relating the use of the Pill to increased incidence of cancer of the breast and cervix.

Professor Vessey confessed himself surprised by the amount of attention his findings had received, and suggested that *they themselves were not* particularly significant but had been made to appear so by association with Professor Pike's discoveries. In turn, Professor Pike was questioned on the use of an "inaccurate" table in his report; he passed the buck defiantly.

No certainty was offered by the doctor given ultimate authority in the area, Dr Clifford Kaye, who presides over the largest survey of women who use the Pill. The facts provided by his 66,000 respondents could not substantiate findings from elsewhere, and after 20 years of widespread use of the Pill there seemed to be no clearer information available about its long-term effects.

However, the sample of young, unmarried women convened in a discussion group for the programme spoke with the flawless certainty of youth and ignorance after the carefully hedged bets of the experts. Margaret Jay very properly chose to set the use of the Pill in its social and moral context. She went on a fact-finding mission and found no facts. Instead of answers she succeeded in uncovering questions, which was, I suspect, the covert purpose of the programme.

We had boys in a sex education class arguing over who should have responsibility for preventing pregnancy. A girl from the discussion group said briskly: "I prefer to be in charge of my own body."

The report was fine so far as it went but indicated that there was much more ground to cover – not, perhaps, an appropriate preoccupation for a prime-time news programme. It made it clear that families are at present obliged to make a life-or-death decision about one of their members from a basis of contradictory or inadequate information. It suggested that children at present make the decision to begin their sexual lives under the impression that the choice of contraception is the most important issue to settle. Let us hope that other programme makers will now take the discussion farther.

Celia Brayfield

Concerts

Violence and virtue

LPO/Solti
Festival Hall

In a concert where each work finds its composer leaping out from his own imaginings into the song and dance of the common people, Sir Georg Solti, of all conductors, can be relied on to whip up performances of raw and relentless physicality.

So it was with the London Philharmonic on Sunday. First came Prokofiev's "Classical" symphony, with its sinewy Gavotte flanked on both sides by a savage cut and thrust of rhythm. A fierce, insect-like clicking would be stabbed into disorder by sudden crescendi and decrescendi; flute curlicues would be tickled by gusts of windy string playing, and Solti himself would crouch as though ready to pounce.

Bartok's *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste* became a celebration of the multiplicity of human activity. The highly strung precision of each movement's making must have conveyed extraordinarily vivid images to radio listeners. In the flesh, one saw double-bass players bending low to toss their highest notes to the celeste, piano, percussion, and pizzicato severing each other's nerve-endings, and the entire body of strings crouches like jockeys to ride their rhythms.

In Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony the audience was wrenched forcibly from its role as observer into that of recipient, even unresisting participant, of the bludgeoning energy deflected outwards from platform to auditorium. Not only was the assault of the opening chords almost physically painful to the ear, but there was a sense of restless equivocation throughout the first movement, created by the nervous nudging of overlapping phrases, and the chimeras created, then shattered, by the *woodwind.*

After Gareth Hulse's oboe had masterfully led the way through the inner movements, the finale reinforced both the brutality of this reading and the orchestra's sheer virtuosity.

Hilary Finch

Cleveland Quartet
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Less grainy, less acid, but also a touch more respectable and conventional, the Cleveland Quartet – who played Dvorak's *Cypresses* and Beethoven's Op 131 on Sunday afternoon, and who gave yesterday's BBC Lunchtime Concert – have changed considerably in the last few years. The impressive impact of their first appearances *here was in part* due to the viola playing of Martha Strongin Katz, who has now departed for domesticity, leaving her husband *at the cello desk to keep* up the family name.

There is still a touch, especially in the leader's playing, of the ungainly, slightly rasping tone that used to be a prominent feature of their playing, but the homogeneous blend and sense of unified tuning and chording has increased, perhaps diminishing slightly the quartet's strong personality. However, that personality is still strong enough to make the collaboration in yesterday's concert with the pianist Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich slightly surprising. Bishop-Kovacevich, who cultivates a warm, sturdy tone and never makes an unpleasant noise at the piano, is poles away from their approach.

I have no idea how this particular partnership came about (some are made in heaven but others, let's face it, are created out of record company rosters and agents' lists) but in spite of some powerful, splendid moments it did not quite work. Bishop-Kovacevich, tried to be as incisive as possible, but his long-term planning and sustained sound was often at odds with the quartet's more spiky, nervy playing.

The first movement went well – the piano's approach to the recapitulation was wonderfully luminous – yet the slow movement was uneasy and the finale, though full of panache, was distinctly splashy.

Nicholas Kenyon

THE TIMES DIARY

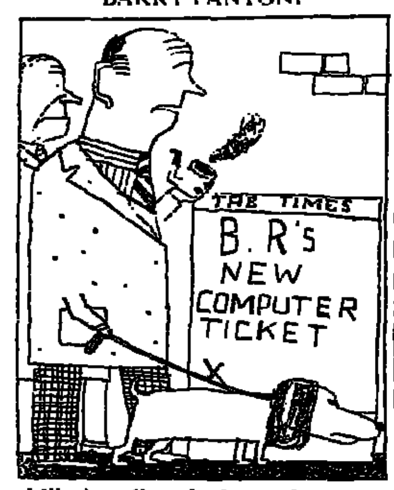
Yassir, that's my stand-in

As Glasgow University students went to the polls to elect a new rector last night, I was surprised to learn that Yassir Arafat, who could not be there, was represented by an Israeli army officer, Haim Bresheeth. Arafat's campaigners, who were being mercilessly lampooned for the move in Glasgow yesterday, insist that the once fierce Zionist is now working for peace. Bresheeth, who is head of TV studies at a London college – "but don't say which, or people will call wishing me dead" – told me his motives were entirely altruistic. "I believe in the people's right to self-determination. If Jewish people have it we must extend it to the Palestinians." Last night, Reggie Bosanquet was out of the fray, ill at home in London. "Nominating Arafat is like proposing Nelson Mandela when he was in prison. . . anyway, Glaswegians are such an odd lot."

Flattermouse

Press advertisements for *Flittermouse*, a new spy thriller by Derek Kartun, have been claiming that the book is "highly recommended" by *The Times*. This is puzzling since our reviewer has not finished reading it yet. Yesterday, the book's publishers, Century, confessed: "It's not just confusing, it's wrong." A note which would have made it clear that Mr Kartun also wrote another thriller called *Beaver to Fox*, which was reviewed and recommended by *The Times* last year, was inadvertently left out.

BARRY FANTONI



'I liked cardboard – it somehow went with trains running late'

Cardinal error

Anyone caddish enough to turn up at the Ritz in open-necked shirt for its first ever cabaret tomorrow night, starring Adelaide Hall, will not be ejected. Instead offenders will be Windsor-knotted into a pink-striped polyester tie, specially designed by the hotel's manager, Julian Payne.

Ironically, he was driven to creating an emergency kit – cummerbunds and bow ties are yet to come – by the improper dress of Pierre Cardin, when he was in London to open Maxim's. With luggage stranded at Heathrow, Cardin had sauntered off in safari suit to find crowds lining Panton Street, awaiting the "glittering couturier". Horrified, Cardin high-tailed back to the Ritz, dragged Payne from his shower, and pleaded to borrow the manager's only dinner suit. Bent double by the sight of the diminutive Cardin dwarfed in his suit – as well as M & S socks, shirt and cufflinks bearing the family motto *Male Mori Quam Fidore*" (death rather than dishonour) – the 6ft 2in Payne summoned his valet to perform lightning alterations. Having fooled all at Maxim's, Cardin stuffed the stitched-up suit in a plastic bag and deposited it outside Payne's door the next day – "with a note, and not a monetary one".

Mr Wright

The preoccupation with image building is not confined to the vanities of Hart and Mondale. George Wright, a leading contender to succeed Moss Evans as TGWU general secretary, heard he was being described as smug and difficult to work for. His administrative staff at Cardiff, where he works as the union's regional secretary, were summoned posthaste. After a brief pep talk, they were dispatched to phone their opposite numbers in the London office, over which Wright hopes to preside, and tell them what a nice chap he is.

● **Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the white-collar ASTMS, was seen scaling the walls of his union's London office in Camden the other day – washing the windows. He insists he was not breaching union doctrine or demarcation lines – he was just proving he could clean a certain square footage of glass within a given time . . .**

Monster Elvis

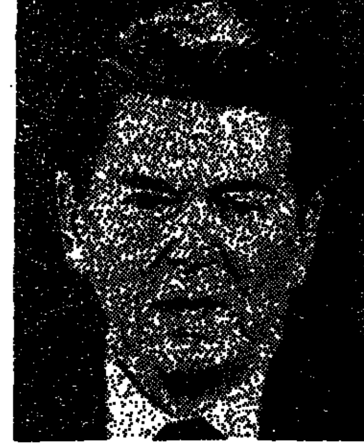
Electoral deposits of £1,000 notwithstanding, Chesterfield by-election candidates Lord Sutch of the Monster Raving Loony Party and Sid Shaw of the Elvisly Yours Elvis Presley Party have formed a formidable alliance for their next stand. In an effort to raise funds, the pair – who polled fewer than 200 votes last week – are selling replicas of their Chesterfield campaign outfits: T-shirt, rosette, poster, two badges, four stickers and manifesto for £6.95 a set. Shaw, a former British consular officer in San Francisco, is marketing the kits from his promotional firm in Shoreditch. The prospect of a by-election in Wales, following Dr Roger Thomas's decision to resign, fills him with glee. "All those Welsh valleys are full of rock'n' roll fans", he says.

PHS

Deterrence and dialogue

In the sixth of our series marking 35 years of Nato, President Ronald Reagan calls for continued resolution in resisting the Soviet threat and declares there can be no limit in challenging breaches of human rights





As the Atlantic alliance celebrates its thirty-fifth anniversary, it is particularly appropriate to rededicate ourselves to the great task we set for ourselves in 1949. The more closely the nations of the alliance can work together, the better we will be able to preserve peace and stability, and the better it will be for people everywhere.

The values that bind Nato together are not abstract concepts. Individual liberty, the rule of law, and respect for dignity of the individual are priceless and real. They have been handed down to us at enormous sacrifice of blood and treasure. They are the cement of the alliance and we can never take them for granted. And it is the success of democracy, not the military power of the totalitarians, that will shape the rest of this century.

The world has changed a great deal since the representatives of 12 states met in Washington, on April 4, 1949, to sign the treaty establishing the alliance. But the underlying unity and purposes of the Atlantic community have not changed.

The founding members of Nato pledged to safeguard the "freedom, common heritage and civilization of their peoples" and to consider an armed attack against any one of them an attack against them all. Having just experienced the most devastating conflict in history, alliance leaders knew first hand the dangers of war, and the requirement for unity to deter it.

But they had more than sound historical understanding. They had remarkable foresight. The structure of Atlantic cooperation which they built has ensured the longest period of European peace, stability and progress in history.

The challenges which the Atlantic alliance confronts today are no less difficult. If we face them with the same determination, creativity, and sense of responsibility we have shown in the past, the future will be secure. If we are to achieve true peace, we must work for it.

The bedrock of our alliance is our unshakable commitment to ensure our security through collective self-defence. There is no alternative but to maintain a credible deterrent military posture and political solidarity. The continuing growth of Soviet military power will require a sustained effort by all of us – to reduce disparities in the military balance, to broaden our cooperation, to make the necessary investments to keep the peace.

Nato is not solely a military alliance. We also seek to improve the well-being of our people. Sustained economic growth will be the key. In this regard, we need to resist protectionism while we expand our cooperation in the fields of science and technology. We have long recognized that developments beyond the treaty area are relevant to our own well-being.

Building a constructive relationship with the world beyond the treaty area will require great energy and wisdom. We need to work together in addressing the human, social, political and economic conditions which create the instability on which radicalism and Soviet interventionism feeds. This does not mean expanding the treaty area. But it does mean working closer together in sharing the burdens and solving the problems.

Since its creation, Nato has always had to address the question of how best to deter Soviet attack. The future will be no different. And we have agreed on the outline of the answer: defence and dialogue. There is no evidence that future Soviet behaviour will be anything but a serious threat to our security and to those principles on which a humane international system must be based. The answer for the future will still be defence and dialogue, a policy of reasonable strength combined with the commitment to search for ways to reduce the risk of conflict. Our challenge is to follow a policy of realism; strong enough to protect our interests but flexible enough to spare no effort in finding a fair way to reduce the levels of arms.

A candle of freedom we must preserve

Sometimes, we in the free countries forget the richness of our most precious possession – freedom and human rights. People who live in tyranny, however, can see freedom much more clearly. It shines like a candle in the dark. It is our responsibility to speak out and to work hard for the dignity of mankind, to improve human rights, and to hold governments accountable for their behaviour. This challenge has no limits.

The experience of the past 35 years has prepared the nations of the Atlantic community to overcome these challenges. As long as we stand together we will remain secure. We have not learned rote formulas, to be applied to all situations whether they fit or not. What we have learned is that the alliance is truly durable. While we cannot take our partnership for granted, we can be certain that patience, cooperation, and hard work will pay off. Any undertaking will ultimately be judged by the challenges it accepts and by those it overcomes. We have accepted a worthy challenge and overcome many of them over the years. There is no reason to doubt the future.

This continuing vitality is nowhere more evident than in the deepening of alliance consultations on the question of nuclear arms control and maintenance of the alliance's nuclear deterrent. The 1979 INF (Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces) decision, taken in response to the deployment of Soviet SS-20 missiles threatening Western Europe, is a shining example of the alliance's traditional approach to western security – the dual foundation of defence and dialogue.

Nato has implemented both tracks of that decision, despite unprecedented political and military threats from the Soviet Union. Nato was responsible for the initiation of the Geneva arms control talks, which the Soviet Union at first resisted. It was through consultations within Nato that our arms control positions were developed. And, it has been the unity and determination of Nato which has made possible the actions needed to maintain our nuclear forces in Europe.

Contrary to popular assertions, the alliance is reducing rather than increasing its reliance on nuclear weapons. The alliance agreed that as INF weapons were introduced, existing weapons would be removed on a one-for-one basis.

In addition, however, last autumn Nato decided to reduce the Nato nuclear stockpile by an additional 1,400 weapons. Together with the 1,000 warheads removed three years ago these unilateral reductions will bring the number of weapons withdrawn since 1979 to 2,400. The overall Nato stockpile will be reduced by one third.

The INF experience is an extremely important lesson for the future. It shows the ability of democratic governments to work together. Despite the stress, even with governmental changes in all of the countries directly involved, we will have been able to maintain a coherent policy. Contrary to the pessimism of many critics, dictatorships do not have an inherent advantage when dealing with free people. When governments remain open, people will respond in the best interests of freedom and peace.

The US will continue to work with our allies to ensure deterrence at the lowest possible level of *nuclear weapons*, and to strengthen the capability of conventional forces to deter conflict and lessen the likelihood of war.

As we work to ensure a credible military posture, we are also creating the basis from which to seek more stable and productive East-West relations. On January 16 I underscored my personal commitment to building a more constructive relationship with *the Soviet Union, on* the basis of realism, strength, and dialogue.

The United States is prepared to pursue the dialogue with the Soviet Union in all areas of our relations, from arms control to regional issues, from human rights to bilateral concerns. While I cannot predict the intentions of the Soviet Union, I firmly believe that it is in the *interest of both* sides that arms control negotiations go forward in all areas which had been under discussion.

The East-West dialogue must also embrace the full range of issues contained in the Helsinki Final Act. If it does not, we cannot expect to strengthen mutual confidence and understanding. In our bilateral dealings with the Soviet Union, and *in the* multilateral channels of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the nations of the Atlantic community will continue to pursue improvements in the rights of the individual, in greater communication and access, and in meaningful dialogue on the wide range of issues affecting the people of the continent.

From isolationism to awareness

The United States did not come easily to the Atlantic alliance. Independence and continental isolation has been a long tradition. As President Washington put it: "Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have no or a very remote relation."

That may have been true two centuries ago, but that view was swept away in the violence of two *world wars. It became clear that* there was no sensible alternative to an active policy of collective security if the democratic nations of the West were to survive.

So long as the sense of common heritage and interests remains vigorous in the West, and so long as the world remains the dangerous and challenging place that it is today, then the Atlantic alliance must be strong and vibrant. On the occasion of the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty, President Truman stated: "If there is anything certain today, if there is anything inevitable *in the future, it is the will of the* people of the world for freedom and for peace". I share President Truman's optimism.

A full collection of articles in this series will be published in book form in cooperation with the Georgetown Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington.

Roger Scruton

Too divine, but far from a comedy

John Stuart Mill characterized the Conservative Party as the stupid party, his own impeccably liberal opinions and policies being, he implied, far less stupid, and therefore far more fitted for the tasks of government. Mill belonged to a *circle of people* who believed that government should be conducted by those with intellect, education and ideas. This weird belief has shown a remarkable capacity for survival. Thus, in the United States, East Coast intellectuals groan under the yoke of the "ignorant cowboy" Reagan as though under a barbarian conquest. In Britain too the belief has had considerable authority, and is responsible for the enormous influence wielded over the Labour Party until recently by the Fabian Society. Most striking of all is its success in the communist world, where every major leader, from Lenin to Ho Chi Minh, has justified his usurpation in terms of "theoretical correctness", "revolutionary insight" and "progressive ideas".

The belief that intellectuals have a natural right to govern *is the* modern version of an old superstition: that of a "divine right" which can sanction the rule of an individual over people who do not wish to be governed by him. It is, however, far more dangerous than the doctrine of the divine right of kings. For a king, as a rule, has a hereditary title. He steps into an office the privileges of which have been steadily eroded by the flux of popular discontent, and the liabilities and responsiblities of which have been determined by a history whose influence is more powerful *than his own. Furthermore,* his presence on the throne is, and is perceived to be, arbitrary in just the way that human life is arbitrary.

He owes it to no personal quality, to no effort, talent or achievement, but simply to the accident of birth. Kingship therefore represents, in the eyes of the ordinary subject, the accidental quality of his own condition, and, by reminding him of the immutable facts of human destiny, reconciles him to the discipline of government. Hence government by a monarch is fairly likely to be government by consent.

Moreover, heriditary monarchy is, in a sense, the most representative form of government. Hereditary entitlement means that, by a natural process, every human type – including the lazy, the stupid, the obdurate, and the insane – has a chance of sitting in the seat of power. Unqualified democratic election, by contrast, discriminates *heavily in favour of the energetic,* the cunning, the ruthless, and the plausible. Our own system is the result of an attempt to combine the virtues, and cancel out the vices, of both arrangements. We have so devised the office of monarchy that its tenant acts not from individual impulse, *but with the slow* measured choice of history.

We have, in effect, created an institution that is wiser than any of its encumbents, and balanced it against a parliament in which the energies of the members are rendered comparatively harmless by the oppressive weight of their official business.

It remains to be seen whether the modern republic will achieve so happy a balance – and, in particular, whether it will provide for the intellectual leader an office equivalent to that of constitutional monarch, an office which contains more wisdom than the head of its occupant. So far, the results have not been very encouraging. Consider Lenin and Stalin – autodidacts of immense range, who consciously identified themselves as men of ideas, and who justified their crimes in terms of a vision which they alone knew how to realize. Consider Hitler, painter, dreamer, playwright and philosopher; or Mao, who summed up the matter with the words "no army can resist an idea whose time has come".

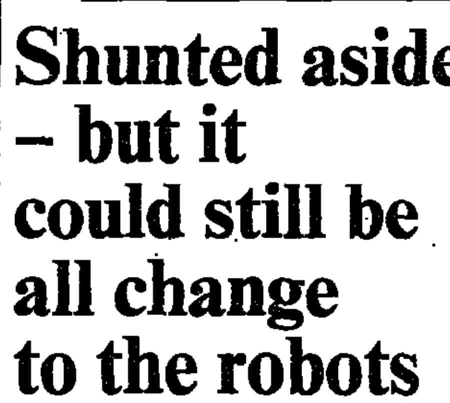
Consider, finally, the Iranian intellectual whose philosophy of "theocratic guardianship" moved him to return to his homeland after years of justified exile in order to replace the divine right of inheritance with the divine right of truth.

Such cases illustrate the dangers inherent in the doctrine of an "intellectual right". The king whose power is justified by divine right knows that he is answerable to a power who is, in the end, "absolute sole lord of life and death". The intellectual knows no such thing, but only that what he thinks is right. The intellectual justifies his assumption of power by referring to the impeccable truth or reasonableness of his ideas; hence his capacity to tolerate opposition is jeopardized by his newfound ability to silence it.

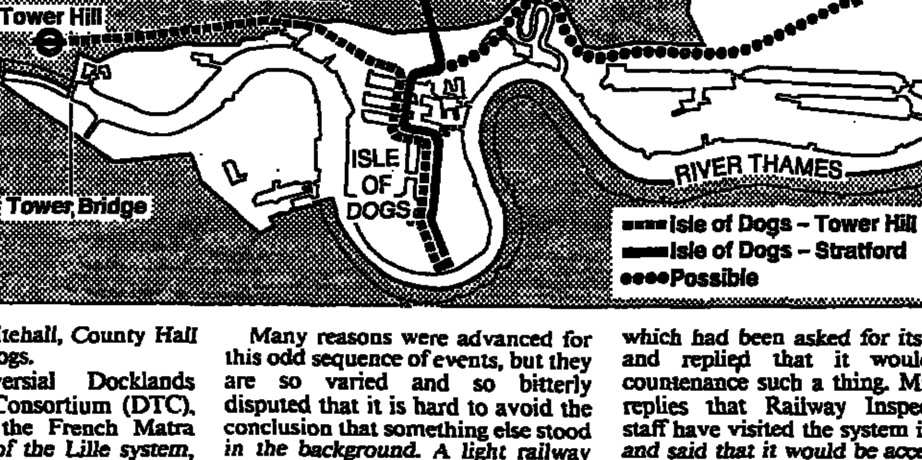
Is it not obvious, therefore, that *the doctrine of "intellectual right"* leads naturally to the extinction of all opposing positions, and all rival ways of thought? In other words, is it not obvious that the superstition refutes itself, by extinguishing the very intellectual light that it claims to worship?

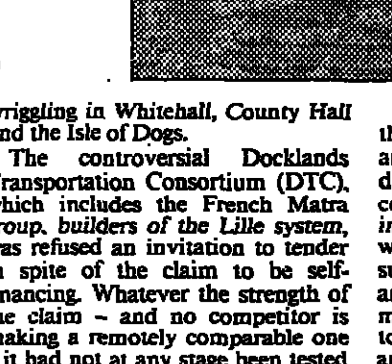
Recently, *Le Monde* ran a series of articles entitled "The Silence of the Intellectuals", lamenting the absence of the "political consciousness" which had reigned supreme in the 1960s and 1970s. What has happened, it asked, to those fulminating intellects who provided *such an inspiration to the left in the* dark days of opposition, and who established the left's "right divine to govern wrong"? The answer is simple. They are in power. No wonder they are keeping quiet.

George Brock investigates a strange tale of wheels within wheels in the Docklands



Shunted aside – but it could still be all change to the robots





The northern French town of Lille has recently acquired the first 7½-mile leg of an urban transit system. It is impressive and slightly eerie: pairs of small coaches running on rubber wheels shuttle quietly up and down, moved not by drivers but by a computer in the suburbs. It carries a million passengers a month and has not so far suffered any accidents.

In the east London docklands they are also thinking about urban transit. By 1987, the Greater London Council (or its successor) and the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) would like to be operating a light railway designed to carry up to 2,500 people an hour in any direction along a 7½-mile distance of track connecting Tower Hill, Stratford and the Isle of Dogs. The network might eventually be extended eastward to Beckton.

This government, from the Prime Minister downwards, has expended a great deal of rhetorical energy promoting the virtues of new technology. Only last month Mrs Thatcher told an audience at Warwick University that too many people clung to yesterday's industries. "I find myself trying to force the pace of change just a little faster", she said. In particular, the docklands is supposed to represent a developing showcase for enterprise and high-tech.

The strange tale of the docklands railway must make anyone wonder just how deep those commitments run. It also raises questions about how the two public authorities involved go about getting value for public money: until last week invitations to tender for the contract had excluded the only consortium which claims to be able to build the railway without the £77m which has been earmarked by the government for capital expenditure.

Since the consortium involved is Franco-British and raises tricky questions of whether the British stake is large enough, the matter appeared on the agenda for a recent day's talks between the Transport minister, Mr Nicholas Ridley, and his French counterpart, M Charles Fiterman. All in all, the railway is causing some uncomfortable wriggling in Whitehall, County Hall and the Isle of Dogs.

The controversial Docklands Transportation Consortium (DTC), which includes the French Matra *group, builders of the Lille system,* was refused an invitation to tender in spite of the claim to be self-financing. Whatever the strength of the claim – and no competitor is making a remotely comparable one – it had not at any stage been tested in detail before being excluded. "We have been manoeuvred against all along", said Mr Peter King, DTC's spokesman.

In October 1982, just as the project and its budget received govenment approval, the docklands staged a transport exhibition attended by various firms sniffing around the contract. Canadian and French firms brought carriages from systems under construction elsewhere. The Matra coach brought from Lille was accompanied by a press release announcing that such a system would not only cover its running costs but be so cheap to run that it would pay back the money raised to build it. "No government subsidy would be called for", it said.

An emissary from the LDDC arrived at the exhibit and asked for the release to be withdrawn, or the coach would have to be removed. The document was never distributed and the coach stayed put. An LDDC spokesman said yesterday that press releases from two companies were withdrawn and that there had been no specific objection to Matra's financial claim.

When the first two routes had finally been decided, the London Transport officials managing the scheme for the GLC and LDDC called in consultants to advise on the kind of system best suited. They recommended restricting the choice to traditional "steel wheel on steel rail" technology, although there was room for improved automation. This decision gradually became known. London Transport says that *the high technology companies* were told, while DTC says that it was never officially informed. DTC mounted an energetic lobbying effort to stay in the game.

Many reasons were advanced for this odd sequence of events, but they are so varied and so bitterly disputed that it is hard to avoid the conclusion that something else stood *in the background. A light railway* which successfully combined a suitable service for the needs of the area, high technology and private money would form a potent threat to London Transport's workforce and current way of doing things.

Mr Bill Clarke, London Transport's general manager of the railway, said that if the system used "patented" technology, however economical it might seem first time round, when it had to be renewed or extended, a monopoly supplier would be in a strong position to raise the price. He cited this as one of the main reasons for preferring unpatented steel wheels and rails.

Mr King of DTC replies that the only truly exclusive aspect of the Matra system is the computer programme: the chances that it would not have been stolen, copied or by-passed before the guarantee period expired were negligible.

"One of the things which has been borne in on us," said Mr Clarke, "is that the docklands should be using British technology as far as possible, and preferably such as we can sell elsewhere." He criticized DTC's proposals on this front as made "in only very broad terms". Those suggestions are that 80 per cent of the components would be built in Britain and that any export work would be divided 50-50 between Britain and France.

The chairman of an informal GLC-LDDC steering group overseeing the planning, Sir John Garlick, former permanent secretary at the Department of the Environment, at one stage assured DTC's chairman, Lord Plummer, that it would be allowed to bid. But he warned that he did not hold out much hope: the unions would object to driverless trains and London Transport and the GLC would object to private money being involved.

Mr Clarke said in an interview that the objection to driverless trains did not come from the unions but from the Railways Inspectorate, which had been asked for its views and replied that it would not countenance such a thing. Mr King replies that Railway Inspectorate staff have visited the system in Lille *and said that it would be acceptable* in Britain.

Several officials claimed that the Matra system would be very expensive; but no detailed examination of the performance figures has been made. Before the key technological decision was made, the system had not been in operation for long enough to provide the information and afterwards it was considered irrelevant. The consultants' advice was clearly to the effect that it would be too costly. Mr David Bayliss, the GLC's chief transport planner, told me last week that he had not been aware that DTC was claiming to offer a self-financing scheme.

The bewildering variety of reasons advanced against the DTC claim was accompanied by a reluctance to admit that the specifications were being developed in a way that leant away from high tech. At a meeting on January 30, Mr Ridley and his senior officials assured DTC that it would be invited to bid. The following day a letter was signed at the project headquarters telling it the opposite. Invitations were issued to only three firms, two British and one German.

But a ministerial eyebrow or two had already been raised. Mr Ridley's junior minister, Mrs Lynda Chalker, delivered a warning in an answer to a parliamentary question. Before giving final approval, she said, "the Government will need to be satisfied that all options have been properly considered and a sensible procedure has been followed to secure tenders". Mr Ridley had spoken in similar terms when he visited the docklands a week earlier.

Last week DTC's determined lobbying paid off. The GLC and the LDDC "have always been concerned to ensure that the possibility *of alternative bids should not be* ruled out", it was told in a letter, and it was invited to tender. How good a railway the docklands will eventually have remains to be seen.

Robin Cook

The right answer to question time

A hundred of the most senior pupils in the school sit in front of me. Each is attentive, disciplined and silent. There is a barbed pertinence to the *query slipped in by the head to fill a* lull in questions from the floor. Why is the House of Commons by comparison so often a noisy and disorderly shambles?

For nine hours out of the ten for which it normally sits the Commons behaves with a decorum that would earn the approval of the most rigorous headmaster. The reason why so many of the public come to regard the Commons as a cross between the Tower of Babel and the students next door giving a party is that the broadcast excerpts are almost invariably selected from the *one other hour of the day – the slot* taken up by Question Time. This is also the one time of day when we are graced by a packed press gallery, and because of that the only time we ever see the members of the SDP who recently have been the most sententious in denouncing parliamentary disorder.

I now wish to give vent to a shocking heresy. Far from providing the crowning glory of the British Parliament, Question Time is its nadir. It is the sheer intellectual bankruptcy of the exercise which on occasion reduces the House to a shouting match.

Every member is allowed only one question, which must be limited to two or three sentences, each couched as a question. The capacity of the British political system to throw up problems rather than answers would be readily understood by our Wittgenstein when he learned that the interrogative was the compulsory mode of speech of its politician.

As a method of exercising scrutiny of the executive Question Time is visibly inadequate. Anyone who has addressed public meetings long enough to become a minister of the Crown has to know how to slip out from under a difficult point when the questioner has no right of challenging the answer.

Each minister develops his own rhetorical trick for awkward corners. I remember one minister in the last Labour government confiding in me that when short of an answer his favourite strategem was to lean on the despatch box, stare the questioner solemnly in the face and say, "I fully take the point the honourable gentleman is making, but for reasons he will appreciate I cannot comment at this stage."

There never was the slightest reason why he should not answer, but such is the exaggerated respect for secrecy of members, especially Conservative members, that generally the Opposition member would nod smpathetically in response, terrified lest he betrayed that he had no idea what the reason might be that the minister could not comment on his question.

Nor can any question be tabled just because it is a matter of concern. My own first attempts at a question fell at the first fence. Among the issues vigorously pressed on me during that election had been the conduct of the Edinburgh military tattoo, which is immensely popular outside Edinburgh but provokes more ambiguous feeling among those who *live in* the adjacent tenements.

I therefore tried to ask the Ministry of Defence the cost of the annual erection of the scaffolding for the grandstand. This the clerk refused to accept on the grounds that the ministry will not entertain questions on the cost of an individual contract lest it provides information of value to a hostile state. In vain did I attempt to reason my way round the bar by demonstrating the improbability of the next war being fought out by two opposing forces armed with lengths *of scaffolding tubes.*

This negotiation with the Table Office must be performed a fortnight in advance of the relevant Question Time. This has the further disadvantage to the member that for two weeks teams of civil servants will crawl over any successful questions, anticipating supplementary questions and drafting alternative replies for the minister. By the day of the match the largest challenge to the minister is finding the right page among the many in the voluminous red loose-leaf binder that he lugs into the chamber.

A much more promising form of scrutiny is provided by the select committee where half a dozen members can grill a minister at leisure with better chance of discovering his raw spot. Yet the *weakness with select committees* is that their only power is to supply the House with reports which the House is almost invariably too busy to debate.

I offer this modest solution to that problem. Let us drop the charade of Question Time to each minister and use each hour saved to debate reports from the appropriate departmental select committee. This would at once reduce the first hour of each sitting to a state of propriety and earnestness that would drive to drink broadcasters in search of dramatic excerpts, but would also save every member from wincing when his local headmaster hints at deplorable standards of discipline in public places.

The author is Labour MP for Livingston.



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CONDUCT UNBECOMING

Today in the House of Commons the Special Standing Committee starts work on the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill. A decision will soon have to be taken as to the role that conduct during a marriage should play in the financial award after the divorce. The Bill proposes that, in deciding what kind of financial order to make, the court should have regard to the conduct of each of the parties "if that conduct is such that it would in the opinion of the court be inequitable to disregard it". Critics have claimed that this would represent a return to the bad old days of mud-slinging in divorce, with protracted judicial inquests into the pathology of long dead marriages. Is this so?

The current statute specifically requires the court to have regard to the conduct of the parties in deciding what would be a just order to make, without in any way *qualifying the court's duty* to investigate this aspect of a case. The Bill, on the other hand, seeks to limit this duty by confining it to those cases in which it would be inequitable *not to take conduct into* account. The Bill would therefore appear to restrict rather than enlarge the role of conduct in the court's consideration of finance after divorce. So why do the critics say *it does the opposite?*

The reason seems to be the Court of Appeal decision in *Wachtel v. Wachtel* in 1973, which held, despite the clear words of the statute, that the court should only take conduct into account if it was "obvious and gross". For a short period afterwards, there was a tendency on the part of the courts to treat the "obvious and gross" formula *almost is if it amended the* statute itself. This tendency was quickly checked. In 1974 the Court of Appeal finally retreated from the constricting effect of the "obvious and gross" test and adopted a broader and more flexible approach. It decided that the questions to be asked were: Would it offend a reasonable person's sense of justice that the conduct should be left out of account and have no effect upon the financial award? Would it be inequitable or unjust to disregard such conduct? This test has been applied in a number of cases since 1974. All the Bill would do is amend *the words of the statute to bring them into* line with present practice. The critics' fears seem to be founded upon a misconception.

Should conduct play a part in the court's decision? It is said that the question of conduct is not justiciable, that it can be difficult for a court to ascertain responsibility for the breakdown of a marriage, and that to investigate conduct exacerbates bitterness and wastes costs. These are formidable arguments, but they cannot be allowed to prevail over the need to do justice. The husband who no longer finds his wife attractive and goes off with a younger woman; the wife who leaves because she has become bored with her husband and then tries to have him ordered out of the matrimonial home: is it really to be said that the courts should ignore behaviour of this kind?

The courts are in fact well able to investigate matters of conduct and reach conclusions upon them, even if the investigation may on occasion be a difficult and time-consuming exercise. Furthermore, judges can limit the scope of an inquiry into conduct and often do so. As for the exacerbation of bitterness and waste of costs, these considerations are outweighed by the greater danger of inducing a deep sense of injustice in a spouse who has been shut out by the court from making serious and well-founded allegations of conduct against the other party. In the law of divorce, the dictates of convenience must give way to the demands of justice.

In many cases, of course, conduct is unlikely to have much bearing on the final outcome, firstly because responsibility for marriage breakdown is often shared in similar proportions, and secondly because conduct is only one of a number of factors which the court has to take into account. The interests of the children have a first claim to consideration, and the length of the marriage, the parties' respective contributions, their needs, their ages, and their past standard of living, are all important matters to be weighed in the balance. Nevertheless, there is no reason why serious misconduct, even if it does not qualify as "obvious and gross", should be disregarded altogether. Most people have a keen sense of right and wrong, and in reflecting that sense the *Bill* strikes a sound balance.

BUYING SPACE BEYOND OUR KEN

The European Space Agency has good reason to be proud of its successful launch early yesterday of the largest civil telecommunications satellite yet to be placed in orbit with an Ariane rocket for the International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation. It was the eighth flight in the Ariane series. It served notice that Europe is ready to challenge the Americans' near-monopoly of space delivery technology for communications and broadcast satellites, meteorological and scientific spacecraft, and a variety of other types for land and sea surveys, called application satellites for civil purposes.

The reponsibility for future flights now transfers to Arianespace which has firm orders for the launch of 25 satellites and options for 15 more, worth a total of £460m. Arianespace has shareholders in eleven countries. Those in France have subscribed about 60 per cent of the capital, with almost 20 per cent from West Germany and 2½ per cent from Britain.

Ariane triumphed over the early troubled history in the evolution of a European space programme. Attempts at a joint European venture began in 1962 with the formation of Eldo (the European Launcher Development Organisation) to build a satellite launcher. It was to have been as powerful as the best American launchers which through the sixties and seventies placed hundreds of spacecraft into orbit. Furthermore, British technology was to contribute a major part of the project. The first stage of the vehicle was to be Blue Streak, a ballistic missile which Britain had discarded. France was to provide the second stage and the Germans the third stage.

There was a difference of purpose between the partners. The British were anxious for a specific return on the investment. The French and the Germans were looking anxiously for some way of getting into large rocket development because they feared space development in Europe could become dominated by the United States. This is important since, in the placing of communications and other satellites in space, the cost of launching is a significant part of total costs. Unfortunately the partners to the joint venture had an incompatible combination of national and international aspirations. Eventually it was abandoned.

The Phoenix rose as Ariane in 1973 when the forerunner of the European Space Agency concluded that during that decade 180 satellites would be placed in the geosynchronous orbit for communications, navigation, weather forecasting and other work, including 23 for Europe. An agreement to build a European launch vehicle was one of the optional projects for the 10 member countries to support.

With hindsight it is clear that the argument for an independent launcher was a sound one, particularly with events on the last American shuttle flight fresh in the memory. The ease with which the two communications satellites worth £130m were lost would have been more disconcerting without the knowledge that alternative methods of launching were available. It may be too early to salute the commercial vision of the advocates of a European launch vehicle; but advisers to the British Government may care to reflect on past miscalculations now they have visitors from the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration knocking on their door, with an invitation to collaborate in a permanently manned United States space station, that will take about 10 years to develop.

It is a long way to plan ahead. But on this occasion the entry fee for British firms will be buying an opportunity to engage in the future in manufacturing technologies in space and for scientists to work in laboratories on projects which far exceed contemporary horizons. It is not a chance to be dismissed lightly.

NOBLE TRIPWIRES

What if a minister of the Crown were today to rise from the front benches and promise a cash gift of thousands of pounds to each of a group of citizens, 100,000 strong, whose location and circumstances he would be at pains to describe and whose individual merit had not entered his calculations? What if the same minister, his rhetorical staples the need for retrenchment and economy, were to confess he could not even put a total on his proposed outlays of public money for the next financial year or the year after? What if the same minister were only rising because a colleague had in a *louche* moment told fellow MPs that in the old tradition of fiscal promiscuity the Government would "do something"? The conclusion of all this for those able to stop the minister would be obvious: it would be to subject that minister – the ill-starred Lord Bellwin – to yet another deserved defeat on yet another of the bad proposals in the Housing and Building Control Bill.

The above is scant exaggeration. The proposal, of which only a few clauses have yet been sighted, is for a hand-out; money has already been earmarked in the public accounts for 1984-85. Lord Bellwin today asks for power to allow the Secretary of State for the Environment to make grants to charitable housing associations for buying property on the open market then selling it to their tenants at a discount. The effect is to endow these tenants. They are, it appears, to acquire the "right" to claim from their landlord a capital sum that could – for all the Government has admitted – total the entire purchase price.

Five years ago, in preparing the 1980 Housing Act, the Government decided against giving the tenants of charitable housing associations a "right to buy" at a discount. Compelling the transfer of associations' assets at less than full price was thought, rightly, to breach a long tradition of charity organization. The Government decided that this was worth neither political aggravation nor the hard work that could have followed such a contentious revision of charity law.

However, the success of the right to buy programme – which must rank as a major achievement of the first Thatcher government – led ministers to lose sight of the fundamental difference between compulsory sale of the assets of public authorities (which, arguably, do include non-charitable housing associations which live in a world of markets and substantial public support) and interfering with charities which happen to have received public assistance in the execution of their limited tasks.

The Lords moved last spring with an expedition which occasionally makes of the upper house such a model of Parliamentary forms and purposes. The relevant clause, number two in the original Housing and Building Control Bill, was defeated. After the election the new housing minister, Mr Gow, made an unfortunate commitment to resurrect the issue. His scheme has to be inferred – the Bill gives no details – but it appears to be a hodge-podge. The Government envisages that anyone living in a house built by a charitable housing association since 1974 with public money is eligible; if he wishes to buy a house then – this is the essence of the "right" – the Government is to compel the association to purchase it for him. The Government then reimburses the association (from money that would otherwise have entered the general housing fund?) in the amount of the discount that would have been received had the rules applying to local authority right to buy been in operation. That sounds complex and bureaucratic and it is.

The House of Lords has an obligation today to smoke out Lord Bellwin. The tenants he is proposing to endow are mostly poor; many are likely to refuse his proffered gift. That makes the plan all the worse. His only defence is the need to treat "public" tenants consistently, an argument to be refuted by reference to the markedly different legal status of housing associations which are charities and are enjoined by the charity commissioners' rules to specific purposes of alleviating want. Last week, in debate on the same Bill, the Lords mobilized as guardians of the interest of the elderly and disabled. Today it is to be hoped that enough peers will take seriously their role as a tripwire for ministers running headlong into error.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No boundaries for deterrent force

From the Reverend Canon P. B. Hinchliff

Sir, One can understand the desire of the Dean of King's College to produce a justification (feature, March 1) of the nuclear policies of the present Government at the *moment when the General Synod is* once again debating the question. His very argument, however, shows how difficult it is to transfer the criteria of the just war to the concept of deterrence.

It must be difficult enough to calculate the proportionate and minimal degree of force necessary to achieve a morally justifiable objective in war. But presumably it is possible to make a projection which would show roughly, for instance, *how large an army, equipped with* these or those weapons, would be needed to defend one's country against an aggressor capable of deploying a force of a certain size.

But deterrence is an entirely different kind of concept. How is *one to know what kind of threat* would be sufficient to deter? The determining factors are psychological rather than factual. Indeed, the greatest weakness of the deterrence theory is that it assumes that those who have to be deterred (the rulers of the nuclear powers) are and *will* always be wholly rational and therefore capable of being deterred. But no rationally calculated threat might have been able to prevent a megalomaniac like Hitler from pursuing his destructive fantasies.

In any case, what will deter one person will not deter another. Mr Harries says that he does not "go in fear" of the French nuclear weapons system. I "go in fear" even of the British one, since the nuclear winter *is something I find frightening* regardless of who makes the first strike.

Mr Harries would presumably regard my fear as hysterical rather than rational. The fact remains that we would be frightened, and therefore deterred, by different levels of nuclear threat. And, if it is difficult to decide how each of us will react, how could it be possible to draw up a psychological profile so as to determine what size of nuclear arsenal would be "adequate" to deter the inhabitants of the Kremlin and the White House?

Yours faithfully,
PETER HINCHLIFF,
Balliol College,
Oxford.
March 1.

'Can pay, must pay'

From Mr R. M. Peet

Sir, If the leader-writer of The Times ("Can pay, must pay", February 27) believes that one is blameworthy, so be it. May the banks plead in mitigation that they acted as they did because it suited the book of governments to let the commercial banks recycle Opec surpluses in the wake of the first oil shock.

If the banks are to be indicted for "folly and poor judgment", why should the Opec cartel escape censure for imparting a vicious downward twist to the painfully achieved recovery of the late 1970s?

The point we have to address is the maintenance or, better still, the increasing of long-term capital flows when banks are under the most urgent pressure to write down their *existing loan portfolios* and at the same time to channel funds into officially sponsored refinancings.

Direct investment, however suitable to development aims, cannot surely in the short to medium run provide the answer. We must look to a constructive alliance of banks and official agencies such as may emerge from the very intensity of the present difficulties.

Yours faithfully,
R. M. PEET,
(Group Economic Adviser),
Standard Chartered Bank plc,
10 Clements Lane, EC4.

Apathy over Ulster

From Mr Hugo Morgan-Grenville

Sir, As an ex-Army officer who was serving in Northern Ireland little over a year ago, I welcome the recent developments within Dr Garret FitzGerald's New Ireland Forum. It is a commendable achievement to bring together the SDLP and the republic's three main nationalist parties under the same roof.

The session on February 9, when the republic's four leading bishops faced direct questions from senior politicians, must be unique in the history of Ireland.

And yet the coverage in our national press has been almost non-existent. The Government appears curiously apathetic about events across the Irish Sea.

It is still insisting that there can be no constitutional change until a majority of the province's voters vote for it. But as 60 per cent of the electorate are Protestant, this is unlikely to come about. Fifteen years of virtual civil war have wrought untold damage upon the community, and cost the British taxpayer £9bn (equivalent to the PSBR for 1983-84).

Is it not time that the Prime Minister displayed the courage and imagination for which she would like to be remembered? Unless Britain takes the lead in trying to solve the tragedy it will have to shoulder the responsibility for the deaths of yet more soldiers and civilians.

Yours faithfully,
HUGO MORGAN-GRENVILLE,
51 Starfield Road, W12.
February 29.

Correction

Yesterday's leading article wrongly stated that Mr Benn had fewer votes at Chesterfield than his Labour predecessor. He had a smaller share of the total vote.

Missing steps on smallholdings ladder

From Mr J. T. Kellett

Sir, There is an even more glaring example of the lack of co-ordinated national policy about the place of smallholdings in the rented farm sector to which you draw attention (February 28).

Very many county councils, like Cheshire, have conscientiously and consistently followed the recommendations of the Wise committee and managed their estates so as to develop a ladder for budding farmers to climb from smaller "starter" holdings through to larger units to which tenants can aspire when they have accumulated the experience and capital.

The latter are the result of judicious amalgamations, which have the useful by-product of leaving surplus houses which are let to smallholders who wish to retire, thus assisting the turnover of lettings.

Now the House of Lords are considering amendments to the current Housing and Building Control Bill which will compel county councils to sell these retirement cottages to their tenants at a discount. The Department of the Environment seem quite unable to grasp that this will frustrate the very policy which the Agricultural Holdings Bill seeks to promote.

It *is not difficult to foresee that, if* the amendments become law, county councils will sell every house which becomes vacant on the open market and take a capital profit, and who can blame them?

Yours faithfully,
J. T. KELLETT,
County Secretary and Solicitor,
Cheshire County Council,
County Hall, Chester.

From Councillor Ian Coutts

Sir, Your most interesting leader (February 28) on county councils' smallholdings is flawed by a contradiction on the attitude of central government to this matter and by your failure to distinguish *between the purposes of Lord* Salisbury's legislation and its actual consequences.

You refer in one breath to "a government whose inroads into local discretion are notorious" and at the end say that national policy "once declared is something local authorities have an obligation to respect".

Nearly 10 years ago Norfolk County Council embarked on a policy of selling some of its *smallholdings and the then Labour* Government of the day did not intervene and I would not expect the present Conservative Government to do so either. Both governments have made clear that it is a matter for local discretion.

You refer to the importance of the smallholdings as a "farming ladder". Experience over the past 50 years suggests that this "farming ladder" is virtually non-existent. It may be possible to find one or two individuals per county who have progressed on from a smallholding to a large farm, but their total numbers are minuscule.

If politics is the language of priorities then county councils would be well advised to dispose of all their smallholdings. Norfolk has recently sold an estate to a financial institution at £1,500 per acre. This means that for each smallholding of 80 acres we collect £120,000, or enough money to build a small first school for 100 children.

The population of this school changes every four years, so in 3 years 750 children benefit.

Yours faithfully,
IAN COUTTS,
2 The Close,
Norwich,
Norfolk.
February 28.

British Airways future

From Mr John Wilkinson, Conservative MP for Ruislip, Northwood

Sir, I must correct the false impressions which were given in your editorial in the Finance and Industry section of *The Times* of Wednesday, February 22.

First, it was alleged that "the sight of a big, powerful and efficient British Airways has struck terror in some Conservative fainthearts: hence the trying of the tartan". Conservatives are actually delighted *that British Airways is now profitable.*

Secondly, to say that the Tory Aviation Committee is "wet and confused" and the Secretary of State for Transport, Nicholas Ridley, "laid back and languid" is trivial.

Mr Ridley was right to ask the Civil Aviation Authority to do an analysis of the route-licensing system. The CAA is the regulatory body for civil air transport and able to give expert and impartial advice to government.

The Conservative Aviation Committee has no corporate view, but its officers and members are vigorous in advocating policies for aviation. For example, most aviation committee members are keen *that the Government should bring* British Airways to the market in such a way as to secure the interests of the travelling public, the independent airlines and the taxpayer.

I made a personal submission to the CAA's review. I stated that privatised British Airways could not constitute more unfair competition to British Caledonian than does nationalised British Airways and that if route-licences were to be bought and sold it would benefit financially strong carriers and prejudice the interests of the weaker independents.

It would be objectionable to the taxpayer if the debts of British *Airways were written off, and the* employees who have worked hard to return British Airways to profit should not suffer on privatisation the dismemberment of their airline.

The best guarantee of the interests of the independent airlines lies in British Airways operating commercially, which would happen after flotation if it had to service its existing debt. British Airways might then have to relinquish routes or sell assets which the independents could assume. It would be the market and not government which would ensure that privatised British Airways competed more fairly with the independents.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILKINSON,
(Chairman, Conservative Aviation Committee),
House of Commons.

Theatre of efficiency

From Mr Alan Ayckbourn and others

Sir, Nearly everyone who works in the British theatre will be glad that the Priestley report has effectively ensured the survival and prosperity of the Royal Shakespeare Company. But a similar study of many other theatres would reveal them to be just as efficient.

For four years the Royal Court Theatre has cut back heavily both on its running and production costs. Actors there are now paid £125 a week. And *yet it is proposed that* this year its Arts Council grant should be increased at a level below that of inflation.

A theatre which produces only new plays chooses both the most dangerous and the most rewarding *possible course. For almost 30 years* the English Stage Company has maintained this policy to a standard which has made it admired throughout the world. Its playwrights and actors are now among the best known in the country.

The National Theatre is largely staffed by its graduates. The role of the Royal Court should be properly recognized. It is a national theatre of new writing and should be funded appropriately.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN AYCKBOURN, DAVID HARE,
HOWARD BARKER, MICHAEL HASTINGS,
ALAN BENNETT, ANN JELLICOE,
EDWARD BOND, TOM STOPPARD,
HOWARD BRENTON, DAVID STOREY,
CARYL CHURCHILL, ARNOLD WESKER,
DAVID EDGAR, SNOO WILSON,
MICHAEL FRAYN,
The English Stage Company Ltd,
The Royal Court Theatre,
Sloane Square, SW1.
February 27.

Rates levy on moorings

From Mr R. A. S. Sampson

Sir, The effect of the Rates Bill on the mooring of small vessels, to which Mr. G. H. Gower draws attention (February 23), is likely to be more serious than he realizes. My understanding of the situation is that swinging moorings are already rateable under the General Rate Act 1967, but that the identifying and tracing occupants of these moorings makes the actual levying of rates impracticable as the cost of collec*tion would far exceed any revenue.*

The new Rates Bill, in schedule 2, enables valuation officers to treat two or more moorings on the same land (whatever that may mean) as a unit, and to demand the rates from the landowner, who will be obliged to act as unpaid rate collector and will doubtless pass on the charge to the occupiers of the moorings.

This will inevitably lead to the development of a rash of moorings in separate ownership and occupation. These will be less well organized than existing moorings, many of which are owned by clubs or boatyards, but will, in actual practice, be unrated. Obstruction to navigable waterways and an increase in hazards to vessels will inevitably occur.

In the interests of all concerned I trust that the Government will have further thoughts about the consequences of this part of the Bill.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. S. SAMPSON, Commodore,
Woodbridge Cruising Club,
Ferry Quay,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk.
February 23

Countryside heritage

From Mr Richard Grove

Sir, Lieutenant-Commander Marten (February 25) asserts that high rates of capital transfer tax and income tax on landowners are leading to the despoliation of the countryside and woodlands in particular. As far as woodlands are concerned he has been sadly misled.

In fact, it is the system of forestry tax exemption and grants provision which is aiding the destruction of the British hardwood resource. Sales of timber are exempt from capital gains tax. Moreover, by switching tax schedules many owners *are* setting any expenditure on the wood off against income from other sources. This allows a family or a syndicate to fell ancient woodland and replace it with conifers very profitably.

This was done very recently at Spanoak Wood (a site of special scientific interest) in Bedfordshire by a pension fund, with a felling licence from the Forestry Commission. Grants are available from the Ministry of Agriculture to carry out stumping of the wood once it is felled. As a result, many of our ancient woodlands are threatened.

It seems ironic, at a time when there is a surplus of conifer softwood *from the enormous sustainable* forests of Northern Europe and Canada and tropical hardwood forests are being rapidly destroyed, that we should continue to have a system which subsidises softwood production and destroys the beautiful and useable hardwood heritage which still remains.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD GROVE,
As from: Darwin College,
Cambridge.
February 28.

Open University under strain

From Professor Christopher Harvie

Sir, Fifteen years ago I was one of the first academics to take up a post with the Open University, which I served for eleven very exciting years until appointed to Tübingen. From this vantage point, and with experience of European distance-learning projects, it is, I hope possible to make a reasonably detached assessment of its achievement.

My judgment, for what it is worth, is that the Open University's techniques and organisation and the expertise and adaptability of its staff are still well in advance of anything Europe has to offer in the distance-learning area. This is reflected in the respect in which the Open University is held and the weight given to its experience in any discussion of new learning methods – and not simply those involving audio-visual techniques or distance learning.

One would have thought that a government professedly concerned to facilitate this country's adoption and exploitation of new information technology would further the development of this key institution. Instead, cut after cut in the Open University's budget (see *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, February 24) *is disorganising its vitally* important planning and production schedules, cutting its student numbers, and steadily demoralising its greatest resource – its dedicated staff.

The Open University certainly cannot be separated from the rest of higher education. It benefited from the flexibility of a system which itself enjoyed remarkable autonomy. Now it, like the other universities, is suffering not only from public expenditure cutbacks but from what seems a systematic attack on liberal culture as an impediment to "business enterprise".

The prevailing Gradgrind approach to educational development and the Government's economic privatization are together wrecking one of the few areas of the "new technology" in which, in experience and trained personnel, Britain is still a world leader.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER HARVIE,
Nuffield College,
Oxford.
March 1.

Union immunities

From Mr David Newell

Sir, I refer to Lord Wedderburn's ferocious response (February 17) to the call by the Master of the Rolls for "more trade union rights".

We do not know exactly what such rights would include or how they would be received by workers and employers. We do know that the employment Acts have been used by a number of employers with grave consequences for a couple of unions and their members and that, in the short term, workers have had to accept the courts' application of the Acts' provisions, but this has taken many trade unions and academic labour lawyers by surprise.

Surely in the current legislative environment it is correct for a *debate to be initiated about the* future shape of labour law. I cannot believe that it is in the unions' interests to return to the statutory regime created by the last Labour Government.

The employment Acts have shown how easy it is to partially dismantle trade union immunities. There may be something to be gained by trade unions if they were to adopt the language of rights in the collective labour law field with more enthusiasm.

The content of such rights must be a matter for wide debate. In all the circumstances it is surprising to find the debate being initiated by the Master of the Rolls and adjudicated upon by Lord Wedderburn. *Surely it* should have been the other way around.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID NEWELL,
Faculty of Law,
The University,
Leicester.
February 20.

Stopping 'The Times'

From Mr C. G. Jarrett

Sir, Your conclusion to "Kicking the dog" (*March 1*) *is absolutely* wrong. We, your long-suffering, patient readers are not astonished – we are bored to tears.

We would like to know, quite simply, are the 10 engineers still working for you or not?

Yours faithfully,
C. G. JARRETT,
15 Kensington Gate, W8.

From Mr R. A. Leeson

Sir, On the occasion of each Fleet Street stoppage you produce the same mournful editorial. But on no occasion do you deal with the crucial question: Why is it wrong for newspaper employees to stop a newspaper for a single day and right for a newspaper proprie*tor to stop it* for 11 months?

Yours faithfully,
R. A. LEESON,
18 McKenzie Road,
Broxbourne, Hertfordshire.

According to form

From Mr J. M. Welch

Sir, Why can't HM Inspector of Taxes wait until *after* Budget changes are announced before posting off our individual hand-written notices of coding (form P2(AC)).

Perhaps the effects of getting things right first time would set too great *a precedent and result in* too large a saving within his department!

Yours faithfully,
J. M. WELCH,
43 Kennedy Crescent,
Alverstoke,
Gosport, Hampshire.

COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

The Duke of Gloucester will open the exhibition, Calligraphy '84, on behalf of the Society of Scribes and Illuminators, at the Central School of Art and Design on March 12.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Commandant-in-Chief, St John's Ambulance in Wales, will open St John's Ambulance House, St John's Gate on March 14.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, president Ladies' Guild of the St John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem, will attend a meeting at 1 Grosvenor Crescent on March 21.

The Duchess of Gloucester will attend a concert at London College of Music, Great Marlborough Street on March 26.

The Duke of Gloucester will visit the Institute of Hydrology, Wallingford, Oxfordshire on March 27.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester will attend a concert, in aid of the Blackie Foundation Trust, at St James's Palace on March 28.

The Duke of Gloucester will attend a concert given by the Leicestershire Schools Chamber Orchestra, in aid of Leicestershire's Appeal for Music and the Arts (LAMA), at Stationers' Hall on March 28.

The Duchess of Gloucester will open the Clinical Diagnostic Unit, Kidderminster Hospital and visit Brinton Ltd, Hereford and Worcester, on March 28.

The Duke of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Pioneer Corps, will attend a ceremony to mark the conferment of the Freedom of Northampton on the corps, at Town Hall, Northampton on March 29. In the evening as patron, Pestalozzi Children's Village Trust, he will attend a reception at Martini Rossi Centre, London.

Requiem Mass for Mrs William Stirling of Keir will be offered at St Mary's Church, Cadogan Street, London, SW3 on Wednesday, March 14, at noon.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. N. Cooper and Miss I. C. Maufe

The engagement is announced between Nigel, eldest son of the late Arthur Cooper and Mrs Felicity Nicholson, of Marderby Grange, Thirsk, and Inger-Lise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Garry Maufe, of Burnham Overy Town, Norfolk.

Dr K. B. Hosie and Dr R. A. Newbury-Ecob

The engagement is announced between Kenneth, son of Mr and Mrs W. G. Hosie, of Porth, Newquay, Cornwall, and Ruth, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. H. Newbury-Ecob, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Mr M. W. Malet and Miss L. A. Herrera

The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Major and Mrs M. E. G. Malet, of Middle Wallop, Hampshire, and Lilyan, daughter of Captain M. N. Herrera of Caracas, Venezuela and Mrs D. A. Herrera, of Onslow Gardens, SW7.

Mr T. Lot and Miss M. C. J. Bromley

The engagement is announced between Thierry, youngest son of M and Mme Pierre Lot, of Paris, France, and Christine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Lance Bromley, of London and Gibraltar.

Mr J. M. Paul and Miss S. Lambert Bandet

The engagement is announced between John, youngest son of the late Mr N. W. Paul and Mrs B. R. Cracroft, of Woodford, Dorset, and Sarah, daughter of Mrs C. C. Lambert, of Shotley, Suffolk.

Mr A. C. Pickett and Miss C. M. Jones

The engagement is announced between Allan Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs R. A. Pickett, of St Cloud, Paris, France, and Charlotte Marion, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Roydon Jones, of Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Mr S. P. B. Tuite and Miss H. M. Tross Youle

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs R. J. Tuite, of Otford, Kent, and Helen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs C. H. Tross Youle, of Henley-on-Thames.

Luncheons

HM Government

Mr Michael Heseltine MP, Secretary of State for Defence, was host at a luncheon given at 1 Carlton Gardens yesterday in honour of Field Marshal Mohammad Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence and Military Production of Egypt.

HM Government

Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Industry and Information Technology, was host at a luncheon given at Vintners' Hall yesterday in honour of Mr James M. Beggs, President Reagan's personal emissary from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

The President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Mr D. L. Haxby, and his officers entertained the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mrs Peggy Fenner, at luncheon at the college yesterday.

Receptions

English-Speaking Union of Pakistan

The English-Speaking Union of Pakistan held a reception at the Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi, yesterday to meet Sir John Biggs-Davison, MP, Mr George A. Gardiner, MP, and Mr James White, MP, and Mrs White. Mr Ahmed Jaffer, chairman of the council, received the guests.

British Maritime Charitable Foundation

Countess Mountbatten of Burma, honorary president, Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin, chairman of the trustees, and Viscount Leathers, chairman of the founders council, were hosts at a reception held to launch the British Maritime Charitable Foundation at Trinity House on Wednesday, February 29. Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton also spoke in support of the appeal.

Anglo-Ivory Coast Society

The Chairman of the Anglo-Ivory Coast Society and Mrs Uziell-Hamilton gave a reception in the Middle Temple yesterday, by courtesy of the Masters of the Bench, to meet the society's new president, the Ambassador of the Ivory Coast, and Mme Diarra.

Dinners

Society of Apothecaries of London

The Master of the Society of Apothecaries of London, Sir Peter Tizard, presided at a yeomanry dinner held at Apothecaries Hall, yesterday, assisted by the Senior Warden, Professor N. Ashton, and the Junior Warden, Professor J. A. Dudgeon. Those present included:
Dr Nigel Compston, Professor A C Turnbull, Dr Stephen Bryans, Dr D J Hatch, Dr T D Whittet, His Honour Sir Carl Aarvold, Mr W F W Southwood, Mr J Kirkup, Colonel Neild, Professor J M Harrington, Sir Peter Proby, Professor W I Macdonald, Professor Peter Richards and Professor D V I Fairweather.

Society of Conservative Lawyers

The Society of Conservative Lawyers held its annual dinner at the Savoy Hotel last night: Sir Edward Gardner, QC, MP, chairman, presided and the guest of honour was Viscount Whitelaw, CH. A vote of thanks was given by Mr Leolin Price, QC. Among those present were:
Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC, Sir Antony Buck, QC, MP, Mr Nicholas Lyell, QC, MP, Sir Anthony Garner, Mr Patrick Nicholls, MP, Miss Beryl Cooper, QC, and Mr Nigel Thomas.

Institution of Metallurgists

The President of the Institution of Metallurgists, Dr Robert S. Barnes, and the senior officers of the institution were hosts at a dinner held at Founders' Hall yesterday, March 5, 1984, to mark the incorporation of the Institute of Metallurgical Technicians into the institution.

Birthdays today

Dr M. G. Adam, 72; Mr William Davis, 51; Sir Archibald Forbes, 81; Sir Robert Fowler, 70; Professor Sir Charles Frank, 73; Mr Frankie Howerd, 62; Mr Lorin Maazel, 54; Mr Richard Noble, 38; Lord Roberthall, 83; Sir Ian Dixon Scott, 75; the Right Rev David Sheppard, 55; the Hon Samuel Silkin, QC, 66; Sir Peter Stallard, 69; Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, 40; Mr D. H. Whitaker, 53; Sir Oliver Wright, 63.

Royal Ascot

The list for applications opened on January 1. Those wishing to apply for Royal Enclosure vouchers should do so personally in writing to Her Majesty's Representative, Ascot Office, St James's Palace, London SW1 1BP, before April 30 stating the full names of those members of their families who require vouchers and their ages if between 16 and 25 years.

New applicants must apply before March 31 and will be sent forms which should be completed and signed by a sponsor who has been granted vouchers for at least six previous years. No forms will be considered if they are returned late or incomplete.

In the event of the list of new applicants being oversubscribed, it may be necessary to hold a ballot for Gold Cup Day, June 21. If this should occur new applicants will be informed of the result in May.

In the enclosure, ladies will wear formal day dress with a hat, which must cover the crown of the head, and gentlemen will wear morning dress with top hat, or service dress.

Marlborough College

Marlborough College is able to offer more scholarships from this year. The following awards have recently been made:

Sixth form entry
Scholarships: Isabella Berthoud, Queenswood, Hatfield; Sophie Bird, South Hampstead High School, London; Rosalind Knowles, Red Maids' School, Bristol; Victoria Pollock, St Paul's Girls' School, London; Victoria Howells (music), Edgbaston Church of England College for Girls, Birmingham.
Exhibitions: Andrea Hey, Shottery Grammar School for Girls, Stratford-on-Avon; Frances Howell, Wycombe Abbey School, High Wycombe; Lisanne Khoo, Convent of the Sacred Heart, Woldingham; Jeanette Thomas, The School of St Clare, Penzance; Sarah Cassidy (foundation exhibition for art), Francis Holland School, London.
13+ Entry
Music Scholarships: Jeremy Van Kampen, Quainton Hall, Harrow; Henry Skelton, Cothill House, Abingdon; Christopher Storr, Kineton High School, Kineton, Warwickshire; Robin Barter, King's College Choir School, Cambridge.
Music exhibitions: Nicolas Ridley, Monkton Combe Junior School, Bath; Toby Graffley-Smith, Swanbourne House, Milton Keynes.

Academic awards

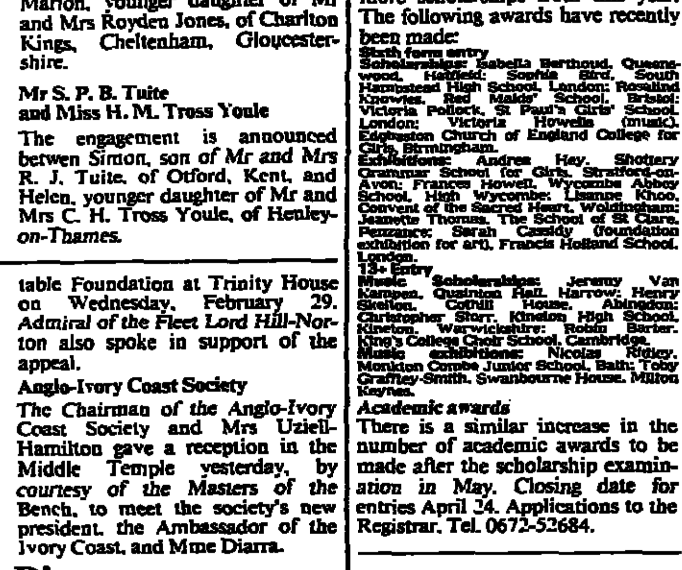
There is a similar increase in the number of academic awards to be made after the scholarship examination in May. Closing date for entries April 24. Applications to the Registrar, Tel. 0672-52684.

Malvern College

Entrance scholarships and exhibitions, 1984:
Porch memorial scholarship: T J Young, Belmont, Mill Hill.
Major scholarships: D Blowers, Rokeby; J Falconer, Emscote Lawn; N J Robberts, Eversfield; S Sastry, Llandaff Cathedral School; D R Walters, St Anselm's.
Minor scholarships: D Clay, Beaudesert Park; R L Geldeard, Packwood Haugh; G B J Whitlock, The Wells House.
Exhibitions: C E G Abbott, Papplewick and Malvern College; M J Boddy, Hawtreys; D Britcher, Hillstone and Malvern College; N Corstorphine, Emscote Lawn; P de Wilde, Llandaff Cathedral School; A C Hawtin, Great Houghton; B R Hickson, Alleyn Court and Malvern College; T R Humphreys, Malsis; H Martin, Mostyn House; G R Nisbet, Wellingborough Junior; J T Rothfield, Banda Preparatory; D T Scarborough, St Anselm's.
Music scholarships: I E Fuller, Lichfield Cathedral School; A D S Ryding, Ripon Cathedral Choir School; E B Walsh, The Downs, Colwall.
Minor music scholarship: R D Good, St George's School, Windsor.
Music bursaries: K G N Clarke, Hallfield; D Ellis, Llandaff Cathedral School; J Falconer, Emscote Lawn.
Art scholarship: S Terry, Emscote Lawn.
Art exhibition: G A Combes, Mostyn House.
Art bursary: J A S Whitty, Windlesham House and Malvern College.

Moreton Hall Shropshire

The following scholarship awards have been made from September 1984:
Major scholarship: Kate McVean, Hazelwood School, Limpsfield, Surrey.
Minor scholarships: Joanne Bews, Mostyn House School, Parkgate, Cheshire; Arabella Fage, Moreton Hall; Emma Hartley, St Mary's Preparatory School, near Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire.
Music scholarship: Isobel Cooper, St Joseph's Convent, Tamworth, Staffordshire.
Music bursary: Haylett Grange PNEU School, Haverfordwest, Dyfed.



Guildhall had a couple of unusual visitors yesterday when Mr Thomas Copas, a farmer, of Cookham Dean, Berkshire, brought Anna, a Highland cow, and her calf to London to help to launch the Post Office's latest set of postage stamps depicting cattle breeds. The Highland cow appears on the 16p stamp. (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Sale room

Governor Duf sets an auction record

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The porcelains made in China in the eighteenth century for the European and American markets are enjoying a Renaissance, according to Sotheby's who, at £57,929, set a new auction price record for a single piece of Chinese export porcelain in Monaco on Sunday.

This price was paid for a figure of a Dutchman in flowing robes and conical crowned hat, standing 17 inches high and dating from the reign of Qianlong (1736-1795).

The Chinese artificers made their wares to conform with European taste and they repeated this figure in various sizes and colours. He is generally known as Governor Duf, after a governor general of the Dutch East India Company, Governor Diedrik Duiven.



The Governor Duf figure, which sold for £57,929.

The figure sold in Monaco was exceptionally large and finely coloured. The price, at last, tops the sensation of 1973 when £50,000 was paid for a highly coloured figure of a seated elephant. The bid was 688,200 French francs where only 100,000 ff to 150,000 ff had been estimated.

A less salubrious echo of Europe's involvement with China was the magnificent *cloisonné* enamel censer and cover, standing on gilt-bronze elephant heads, stolen from the Summer Palace in Peking when it was sacked by British and French soldiers in 1860.

The censer, with gilt-bronze grills alternating with elaborate enamel, stands almost six ft high and was brought back to England by Lord Loch in 1861. It made the top price in the sale at 888,000 ff (estimate 500,000 to 700,000 ff) or £74,747 and will be going back east, having been bought by Robert Chang, a Hongkong dealer.

The sale totalled £554,383 with 20 per cent left unsold. The subsequent evening sale of French furniture was more strongly competed for, totalling £803,385 with 11 per cent unsold while yesterday morning's furniture sale made £436,824 with 5 per cent unsold.

A group of chairs made by Foliot for the Château of Fontainebleau was the most sought after lot in the sale, bringing 910,200 ff (unpublished estimate 600,000 to 800,000 ff) or £76,616. The group includes four finely carved straight-back chairs, painted grey, and a matching armchair (*bergère*) from the rooms of the Comtesse de Provence and a pair of armchairs (*bergères*) from those of the Princesse de Lamballe.

The chairs can be traced in the royal inventories as delivered to the château in 1786 and 1787. They were sold to a Paris buyer.

Sandhurst commissions

The following have been granted short service limited commissions in the regiments or corps shown, having successfully completed the short service limited commission course no 14 at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst:
R G S Adams, QOH, Dulwich C; R J Anicliff, RA, Felsted S; A K Arkell, RTR, Aldenham S; R G Bacon, RA, Highgate S; A W T Baker, RA, Park S; R A R Cantelo, R HAMPS, Royal Hospital S; R A Carr, RA, Loughborough GS; A M S Chesser, RA, Cranleigh S; T J Colley, RE, Cockermouth GS; J C Dawson, 2GR, Tonbridge S; M J Doran, RGJ, Worth S; M P A Dunn, KOSB, Loretto S; S N Edwards, RTR, Selby HS; T R Elliot, RE, Kings Manor S; N J M Fardon, QLR, Monkton Combe S; J R Flynn, RA, Wargrave Piggott S; B A Foster, R ANGLIAN, The Leys S; T J A Frost, RA, Minster S; A S Gash, RTR, Eton C; A Gilbert, RTR, Hymers C; E R Grayson, RTR, Hymers C; J M Hardiman, WFR, Stourport-on-Severn HS; N C Hatrick, RA, Marlborough C; W J Hooper, RA, Dulwich C; M J W Hubble, 2GR, Wellington C; P J Ladmore, RA, Abingdon S; J F Lane, RE, Abingdon S; A Mami, RRW, Latymer S; R A R Macleod, QO HLDRS, Fettes C; T I McConnell-Wood, 7GR, Kings S; S McC Meikle, R SIGNALS, Edinburgh Acad; R J Mercer, RE, Taunton S; J M H Moir, 16 5L, Shrewsbury S; A R Mullins, RRF, Dulwich C; P C Newman, R ANGLIAN, Trent C; R C O'Keeffe, RE, Cranleigh S; J C M Orr, REME, Queen Elizabeth S; C C Outhwaite, RGJ, Sherborne S; J M Overland, RGJ, Winchester C; M D C Partington, R ANGLIAN, Millfield S; S M Payne, LI, Sedbergh S; R G Petty, RRF, Latymer S; M R Rogers, RA, Sedbergh S; G Sayers, RE, Wellington C; J B Sharp, RA, Rickmansworth S; S J Shirley, RCT, Alcester S; D C Simons, R ANGLIAN, Merchant Taylors S; M J Thorpe, GREEN HOWARDS, Stonyhurst C; P D Wang, GORDONS, Merchiston C; A D B Williamson, PWO, Shrewsbury S; A A Woodthorpe, LI, Marlborough C; C S E Yorke, LG, Eton C.

St Aubyn's School

St Aubyn's School, Woodford Green, Essex celebrates its centenary during the present academic year. Among the celebrations is the governors' wine and cheese party on June 15, 1984, and old boys not already on the mailing list are invited to write to the headmaster for full details of this and of other events.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include Mr David McCarraher to be a Circuit Judge on the Western Circuit.
Mr Norman Ward-Jones to be a member of the Gaming Board.
Mr Rory Coonan to be art officer at the Arts Council, responsible for the works of art in public places scheme and patronage schemes.

Latest wills

Sir Henry Charles Husband, of Sheffield, South Yorkshire, the structural engineer who designed the radio telescope at Jodrell Bank, left estate valued at £550,046 net.
Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Lambert, Mr Uvedale Henry Hoare, of Bletchingley, Surrey, former High Sheriff of Surrey ... £851,116
Marsh, Mr Marcus Maskell, of Burthorpe, Suffolk, former racehorse trainer ... £51,366
Misener, Mr Laurence, of Maidenhead, Berkshire ... £658,588
Peake, Mrs Maeve Patricia Mary Theresa, of Chelsea, London, painter ... £232,669
Gifford Scott, Mrs Kathleen Dorothy, of Doddiscombsleigh, Devon ... £601,821

University news

St Andrews

The new Master of the United College is to be Dr Kathleen MacIver, formerly senior lecturer in the department of geography and currently dean of the faculty of arts. She is the first woman to hold the post.

Dr MacIver, who succeeds Professor David Brynmor Thomas, Bute professor of anatomy and experimental pathology, will take office for a four-year term from August 1.



Dr Kathleen MacIver, of St Andrews

Durham

Grants
Science and Engineering Research Council: £172,944 to Professor G G Roberts and Dr M J Holgate to support courses in integrated circuit design.
BP: £71,619 to Dr W J Feast as an extra-mural research award.
Manpower Services Commission: £113,624 to Mr A R Townsend (in association with Birkbeck College, London and Newcastle University) for research on integration and presentation of manpower data for travel-to-work areas in Britain.

London

Appointment to chairs
M. P. Coward, Phd, reader in earth sciences, Leeds University, to geology at Imperial College of Science and Technology; C. E. Gunton, DPhil, senior lecturer in Christian doctrine and history at King's College London, to Christian doctrine at King's College London; J. N. Hobcraft, BSc (Econ), chief of the comparative analysis and special studies section, World Fertility Survey, London, to population studies at London School of Economics; Celia M. Hoyles, PhD, principal lecturer in mathematics education, Polytechnic of north London, to mathematics education at Institute of Education; Raymond Levy, MB, ChB, PhD, consultant psychiatrist, Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospitals, to psychiatry of old age at Institute of Psychiatry; A. H. Waters, MB, BS, PhD, professor of haematology at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, to haematology at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College; Professor J. M. Ogborn, reader in physics education, Chelsea College Centre for Science and Mathematics Education, to science education, Institute of Education.

Conferment of title of Professor
Criminology with special reference to penology: J E H Williams, LLM, Hon LLD, the London School of Economics; biochemical pharmacology: K R Harrap, DSc, Institute of Cancer Research; biomedical engineering: V C Roberts, BSc(Eng), PhD, King's College London School of Medicine and Dentistry; geology: J T Temple, PhD, Birkbeck College; German: Marianne Wynn, PhD, Westfield College.

Conferment of title of reader
Clinical epidemiology and social medicine: H R Anderson, St George's Hospital Medical School; immunology: A M A Ebringer, MD, Queen Elizabeth College; modern history: R F Foster, PhD, Birkbeck College; psychology of individual differences: D W Fulker, PhD, Institute of Psychiatry; geology: J T Greensmith, PhD, University College London; development planning: Nigel Harris, PhD, University College London; cell studies: J P P Monjardino, MB, BS, PhD, Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine; social administration: D F J Piachaud, MA, London School of Economics; English: M D Slater, DPhil, Birkbeck College; farm business management: J P G Webster, PhD, Wye College; nursing studies: Jenifer Wilson-Barnett, PhD, Chelsea College.

UMIST

Professor Harold Hankins has been appointed Principal of UMIST from March 1.
Honorary fellowships will be conferred on the following in May:
Dr Duncan S Davies, Mr Anthony Goldstone, Emeritus Professor Tom Kilburn, FRS, Dr Jonathan Miller, Sir Clive Sinclair, Professor John Meurig Thomas, FRS.

NEWCASTLE

Honorary degrees are to be conferred on the following in May:
DCL: Mr Frank S. B. Chao, marine engineer, and Mr Michael Brearley, former England cricket captain, who was a lecturer at the university from 1968-1971.
DSc: Sir Kenneth Blaxter, FRS, director of the Rowett Research Institute.
DEng: Sir Duncan McDonald, chairman, Northern Engineering Industries.
DLitt: Joyce Maine Reynolds, fellow and director of studies, Newnham College, Cambridge.
MA: Mr Thomas Allen, the singer.

Birmingham

Honorary degrees will be conferred on the following in July:
DLitt: Professor Jacob Ajaji, professor of history, University of Ibadan.
LLD: Sir Douglas Black, former president of the Royal College of Physicians; Dr Solomon Ward, general practitioner.
DSc: Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, chairman, Natural Environment Research Council; Sir Walter Marshall, chairman, Central Electricity Generating Board; Sir John Vane, Nobel prize winner for medicine.
DD: Right Rev High Montefiore, Bishop of Birmingham.
DMus: Mr Simon Rattle, principal conductor, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.
DSoc Sc: Professor Sir Alan Walters, economic adviser to the Prime Minister.

Ulster

Honorary degrees will be conferred on the following in July:
DLitt: Miss Jennifer Johnston (contribution to literature); Lord Thomson of Monifieth (higher education and services to public); Dr B. I. Trainor (Public Record Office, N Ireland); Mr Bryden Thomson (services to Ulster Orchestra).
DSc: Mr W. A. McNeill, chairman of governors, Ulster Polytechnic; and Dr T. K. Whitaker (higher education).

Science report

Why troops still have to fear mustard gas

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The alleged use of poison gas in the war between Iraq and Iran coincides with publication of a study of chemical and biological weapons by three British academics. They trace the development of mustard gas – implicated in the present incident – and more advanced compounds on which nerve gases are based.

Although mustard gas was the first chemical weapon used 67 years ago, development of refined forms continued for more than 30 years.

The first form was a brown liquid, dichlorethylsulphide, responsible for 70 per cent of the 125,000 gas casualties during the First World War. After that experience the Briish and French developed their own mustard gas, and a huge research effort mounted in the United States culminated in Lewisite. The name is drawn from the Lewenstein process for making a formulation which produced similar effects faster than the original substances.

The US Government built chemical plants in 1945 for purification of stocks of gas made by the Lewisite process.

The product of purification, by water-washing and vacuum distillation, is known as distilled mustard, or HD.

Estimates in the new study, published as a paperback called *No Fire. No Thunder*, and papers prepared for the International Institute of Strategic Studies, show that the Americans have stocks of about 20,000 tons of mustard gas. All British stocks were destroyed by 1957.

Mustard gas is a vesicant; that is, it causes blistering of the skin. When British soldiers were first exposed to it they did not bother to put on their gas masks because they felt only a slight irritation to the eyes and throat.

After some hours the irritation gave way to a great pain, relieved only by morphia. Individuals severely exposed suffered internal blistering and death from congestion of the lungs.

Poison gas was not used in combat in Europe during the Second World War, and there is only one record of its use in Asia, by the Japanese against the Chinese. In the past 10 years there have been many allegations in the Middle East and South-east Asia.

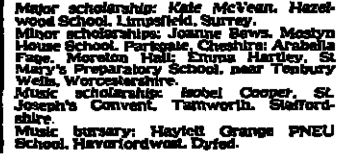
Research also produced the new class of nerve gases, the first generation of which, the G agents, were developed in Germany in plants which fell into Soviet hands almost intact. They were succeeded in the 1950s by the discovery of V agents, one of which is the most toxic nerve gas ever produced.

No Fire, No Thunder, (Pluto Press: £3.95).

OBITUARY

MR WILLIAM POWELL

Hollywood leading man



Mr William Powell, the debonair, sophisticated leading man of some of the best of Hollywood's light comedies of the 1930s died yesterday at the age of 91.

He will chiefly be remembered for his playing in *The Thin Man* series with Myrna Loy. In those days there were not many native Americans in Hollywood with the style for the sophisticated, almost drawing-room type of comedy, and Powell, with his small, neat moustache, his urbane manner and his air of slight but unruffled surprise at the melodramatic adventures which befell him, made a welcome change from his tough and wise-cracking contemporaries.

The curious thing about his film career was that it was not until comparatively late in life that he took up this intimate style of comedy. Throughout the silent days, and after the coming of sound, he was generally labelled as a 'heavy' – a rather solid type of American hero – and the change only came after the MGM director, W. S. Van Dyke, had directed Powell in 1933 in a typical New York detective story, *The Thin Man*, and he decided that Myrna Loy and Powell would be admirably suited to play the elegant and debonair married couple who were the central characters.

Louis B. Mayer, the head of the studio, thought it a bad idea, and was only won over by the promise that it would be a cheap picture to make. It was filmed in 16 days, cost very little and made a handsome profit at the box office; and Myrna Loy and William Powell became major stars over night.

William Powell was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on July 29, 1892. He was educated in Pittsburgh and at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. He appeared in New York in *The Ne'er-do-Well* in 1912, toured the United States in stock companies, and then spent eight years on Broadway as an actor and singer.

He started his film career in 1920, in a part in *Sherlock Holmes* with John Barrymore, and thereafter was kept regularly employed, often in costume pictures. He was in *Beau Geste* in 1926, with Ronald Colman and Noah Berry; *The Last Command*, with Emil Jannings; *Beau Sabreur*, with Gary Cooper; *The Four Feathers*, with Richard Arlen and Clive Brook; and many other silent films.

By 1937 he was being rated as one of the biggest box-office stars in Hollywood, having played the name part in *The Great Ziegfeld*, with Myrna Loy and Luise Rainer; *Libelled Lady*, with Spencer Tracy and Jean Harlow; *The Last of Mrs Cheyney*, with Joan Crawford; and *My Man Godfrey*, with Carole Lombard.

He continued to appear frequently in films for the next 20 years, and was seen with great success in middle age as an orthodox pater familias with Irene Dunne in *Life with Father*, and as a naval commander of the old school in *Mister Roberts*. The light touch which Van Dyke had implanted in 1934 remained with him for the rest of his acting career, and was largely responsible for his continuing success.

After *Mister Roberts*, which was released in 1955, Powell retired from the screen and went to live in Palm Springs with his third wife, Diana Lewis, a former actress. He was previously married to Carole Lombard.

RINTY MONAGHAN

Rinty Monaghan, who has died at the age of 63 was world flyweight champion from 1948 to 1950 at a period when fighters from Britain enjoyed world dominance at the weight.

John Joseph Monaghan, an Ulsterman, was born in Belfast on August 21, 1920 and started boxing at 15. He acquired his nickname "Rinty" as a result of schoolboy hero worship of the film star dog Rin-Tin-Tin.

In the years before the war he was active especially in his native city where, among his few defeats was a knockout in 1938 by Jackie Paterson whom he was ten years later to relieve of his world crown.

The war years saw little boxing for Monaghan who joined the Northern Ireland ENSA, but it had not been long over when he established his claim to fight for the British title by beating Bunty Doran in four rounds for the Ulster flyweight championship in November 1945.

In 1947 he beat Dado Marino, the Hawaiian over 15 rounds to win the NBA flyweight title and on March 23, 1948, met the Scot Jackie Paterson who had held the world title since 1943. Having had difficulty making the weight Paterson was not really in much of a condition to weather Monaghan's attacks. Dropped for a count of seven in the second round he eventually succumbed and was counted out in the seventh. This gave Monaghan the World, British and Empire titles, all of which Paterson had held, at one fell swoop.

In February of the next year however Monaghan astonished his followers by being beaten by the young Islington flyweight, Terry Allen, in a non title fight during which the world champion paid several visits to the canvas. In April 1949 he defended against Maurice Sandeyron of France, adding the latter's European championship to his world and British title after beating him over 15 rounds.

Allen again challenged Monaghan in September and again gave the Ulsterman a hard time, though did not succeed in relieving him of his titles in a 15 round contest which ended in a draw. In the following year Monaghan, increasingly suffering from Bronchial catarrh which had plagued him in his championship fights, announced his retirement.

Though his reign as champion was short, Monaghan was a colourful fighter who had an educated left jab and a hard right hook. But he had difficulty keeping in condition in his latter years. One of his most notable traits was his habit of entertaining the Belfast crowds with a song after his fights. Win lose or draw he was apt to sieze the microphone after the verdict and render "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" or "How Can You Buy Killarney" for his fans.

MR L. P. THOMPSON-McCAUSLAND

Rudi Weisweiller writes:

Your obituary of Lucius Thompson-McCausland (February 25) concentrates on his distinguished career in the Bank of England and his part in shaping the world monetary system of today. I had the good fortune over many years to receive his help and advice in explaining currency matters; this showed me the width of his perspective and the depth of his understanding.

However his interests outside money matters were many and real. As a devout and practising Christian he put his professional knowledge at the disposal of the Church of England, especially in the diocese of St Albans. He was active in many ecumenical endeavours and discussions. He served as High Sheriff of Hertfordshire.

His connexion with the Working Men's College at Camden Town deserve particular mention. In the 1920s he volunteered to teach English there, and 40 years later resumed evening teaching and successfully prepared a class of adults for an O Level in Latin, using revolutionary new teaching methods. At the same period he and his wife enrolled as students in the Italian class; the fanatical classicist was determined to be able to communicate also with the present inhabitants of Tuscany.

He was vice-chairman 1957-64 and chairman 1964-1969 of Corporation, the college's body of trustees, and was then elected to be Principal of the College, an office he held for 11 years with great distinction and obvious enjoyment. His courtesy and moderation made "T.M." an ideal mediator and a genial host. His part in steering the College through years of change and growth was decisive and positive.

MR GEOFFREY BROWNE

A correspondent writes:

Geoffrey Browne, who died on February 17, was not simply the founder and builder of the Economist Intelligence Unit, but he was also the man who first succeeded in selling market and economic research in Europe and in the developing world to American business. In the 1950s he was an indefatigable traveller and salesman in North America, to such effect that the company he directed became as well-known a name there as native companies and was the first successful British exporter of economic and market research.

He was instrumental too in persuading the World Bank to consider economic consultants on a par with engineering consultants, and in so doing helped to cause a considerable and permanent change in the way in which the Bank examines major investment projects in the developing world.

Any reference to "GSB" would be incomplete without mention of his gift for recognizing promise in young people and his skill in nurturing it. His help to people seeking career advice was well-known and came easily from someone who had earlier had to make a choice between joining the Hong Kong-Shanghai Bank and becoming a professional footballer with Charlton Athletic.

The Earl of Strafford, 7th Earl, died on March 4 at the age of 79, and is succeeded by his son, Viscount Enfield.

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THE TIMES
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The rocky road leading to fiscal neutrality

Since its inception, the Institute of Fiscal Studies has been trying to grapple with the distortion of savings by the tax system. Its first effort, in the Herculean Meade report on direct taxation, fell by the wayside – rightly. Its idea of a savings deductible expenditure tax required an enormous upheaval to achieve relatively little and would have resulted in the basic rate of tax being much higher – precisely the opposite of what should be the top priority for long-term income tax reform.

A new IFS study called *Savings and Fiscal Privilege* by Mr John Hills scores another frustrating miss. It is frustrating because Mr Hills has ingeniously managed to parade the distortions in a quantified spectrum of "privilege" – the difference between the effective rate of tax on the *real return from different forms* of personal investment – in the most graphic and convincing way yet.

The problems are plain to see: in terms of economic efficiency, equity, the diversion of savings to institutions or the bias in favour of investments used by the wealthy and the sophisticated.

Whatever the intention of tax allowances, for instance, it is daft for a 10-year life assurance policy cashed early to earn a far greater relative tax benefit than a long-run policy.

Indeed, tax can play such an overwhelming part in the difference between *the real rates of return on different* investments that the old City saw that you can sell an Englishman anything so long as it saves him tax shows the Englishman in a more canny light than most suspected.

Mr Hills's suggested solutions must, however, be judged a failure because, again, they create more complexity and as many new problems as they solve.

In a half retreat from the Meade position, Mr Hills wants to split investments into two categories: the privileged, like pensions, life assurance and house purchase and the unprivileged, especially deposits and achieve fiscal neutrality within each group, to a tax inflation-adjusted return equal to the individual's marginal rate of income tax.

For the privileged modes of saving he wants the money put in to be fully deductible from income tax but the money taken out fully liable. This means taxing capital sums as income, producing either massive unfairness or the complexities of tax spreading on a large scale. One coincidental effect, full taxation of cash commuted from pensions, runs right against the reasoning behind the current fervour for pension reform.

On the non-privileged side, Mr Hills calls for index-linked capital gains to be treated as income and is in general much too hung up on impractical index-linking schemes to aid uniform taxation of real returns.

The principles and some of Mr Hills' suggestions are correct. But are we any nearer seeing some progress? The Treasury has just taken steps to equalise the treatment of banks and building societies but in the process seems intent on penalising bank depositors who do not pay income tax by extending the building society composite tax rate rather than abolishing it.

The Chancellor is evidently about to move heavily into the taxation of savings in his Budget. On the surface he has two linked aims: to ease distortions between closely competing institutions in ways that ease the Inland Revenue load.

More throughgoing reform runs up against the old political problem that it is much easier to give a tax privilege than to take one away.

Unless changes are properly phased over a period (in stark contrast to recent moves), they merely upset people's plans and expectations and create a general air of uncertainty.

But the correct tax reform, however long it takes, might be to phase out relief of pension contributions and life premiums and the self-defeating relief of mortgage interest in order to slash the basic rate of tax. In the end, lower tax rates are the best antidote to distortions.

Base rates conundrum

Amid general euphoria, the Government broker yesterday pressed yet another tranche of official debt into the eager palms of the gilt-edged market. At roughly 11am, with long stocks agead by half a point, he revealed that supplies of the £1 billion long tap, Exchequer 9¾ per cent 1998, were exhausted. They dropped on initially at 25⅛ then at 25¼ and finally at 25½.

Apart from helping the funding programme, the tap sale shows the scale of turnround in sentiment in gilts during the past month. Issued in early February, and kitted out with super-star status as the first medium-dated issue for two and a half years, Exchequer 9¾ per cent 1998 immediately fell into the dog stock category. The issue flopped under fears of higher US interest rates and the bulk was left at the post. Since then, however, gilts have risen by as much as 2½ points.

By mid-afternoon yesterday, the wind was again beginning to change.

The money market has clearly made up its mind that base rates are on the way down. Reluctance to part with paper presumably accounts for the mere £8m of band one bills purchaseed yesterday *morning by the Bank of England*, while over-supply of credit by the bank in the afternoon was taken to condone what had happened, while leaving intervention rates were unchanged.

Other parts of the market, however, are keeping a beady eye on the conditions of the new tap, 1 billion of Exchequer 10 per cent 1989, announced with precision timing last Friday, for sale by tender tomorrow. At 10 per cent, the coupon is back into double figures, and suggests that the bank will be more concerned to hurry slowly over lowering rates, in the hope of retaining some curbs on the present credit boom.

January's retail sales figures, which show a 3 point plus fall in volume compared with the December index, are a murky guide because of bad weather and fog in the statistics. More pertinent will be today's announcement of the money supply figures for the February banking month.

The smart move according to dealers, is to play the put and call option and wait for the money sypply figures, since tomorrow's tender offers a reasonably painless way back into the market, if the figures are good. But technical factors could still torpedo such delicate calculations. The word now is that building societies have seen a massive £1.250 billions inflow during February, and such cash must surely find its way into gilts sooner rather than later.

In addition, the authorities are rumoured to be cooking up a shrewd deal *with the building societies, whereby tax*-sensitive low coupon stocks can be swapped for the new tap, on a cash for cash basis. Assuming this story is true – and no-one was actually denying the *possibility last night* – then the new tap might disappear without trace, base rate cuts or no.

Barclays' profit rise dented by heavy bad debt provision

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Barclays Bank opened the results season for the big *clearing banks yesterdy with* a much stronger underlying performance than expected. But a large and unforeseen increase in the bank's general provision from £6m to £85m depressed the profits, with the result that a 12.5 per cent gain at the pretax level to £557m was broadly in line with what analysts had forecast.

Over past five years Barclays' general provision has averaged £21m, but Sir Timothy Bevan, chairman, justified the sharp increase on the grounds that it reflected "general and continuing uncertainty in the world". Barclays also said it wanted to restore the level of general provisions which had fallen in recent years.

However, some banking analysts suggested yesterday that Barclays may be responding to Bank of England hints to increase provisions and may also have been influenced by speculation that next week's *budget will* contain some nasty surprises for the banks.

Including a one-fifth rise in specific provisions to £390m, the total charge against the profits for bad and doubtful debts rose from £328m to £475m – about £100m higher than most outside estimates.

However, Barclays is confident that provisions in Britain *and the United States will* be down this year, although it is more cautious about Asia, where Hongkong has been a particular problem.

Because the general provision is not allowable for tax and the group did less leasing last year, the group's tax charge has risen steeply from £131m to £220m and earnings per share were *down from* 96.7p to 84.8p. But dividends for 1983 are still being increased from 22p to 24p net, a rise of 9 per cent.

There was an improvement in the United States, after a £35m preinterest loss in 1982 reflecting heavy provisioning against loans to several large corporate customers. Although provisions were still high in 1983, US operations recovered to a £16m profit.



Sir Timothy: continuing uncertainty

Higher profits from South Africa were further boosted by currency gains on translation and showed a 51 per cent gain to £118m in sterling terms.

United Kingdom profits before loan stock interest increased from £416m to £425m. The domestic bank suffered *from a higher level of* bad debt provisions than expected early last year and contributed an unchanged £314m. However, the previous year included £45m of gilts profits compared with very little this time.

Barclays has been keeping a tight hand on domestic costs. Staff numbers in the parent bank were unchanged, and there has been some volume growth with advances up 11 per cent to nearly £19 billion. But a rise of about one-third in commission *income in the parent bank was* the most significant factor on profits, reflecting higher bank charges for personal and corporate customers.

Pound gains on dollar

The dollar came under pressure against the Japanese yen *and the Swiss franc* yesterday, while sterling closed mixed on the foreign exchanges as speculation over a cut in UK interest rates persisted.

The pound closed up 40 points at $1.4850 against the dollar, but its value measured against a basket of leading currencies fell by 0.3 to 82.1. Sterling suffered most against *the yen, closing 5.0 down at 333* yen.

Rates continued to ease in the domestic money markets in anticipation of a ½ per cent cut in bank base rate to 8½ per cent

The dollar closed at 223.5 yen yesterday, down 4.5, while against the Swiss franc it slipped from SwF 2.1510 to 2.1245. The American currency was also weaker against the Deutsche mark although it closed off the lowpoint, down ½ pfennig at DM 2.5755.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1053.7, down 7.0 (day's high: 1064.3, low: 1053.7)

FT Index: 832.6 down 6.3
FT Gilts: 82.83 up 0.11
FT All Share: 499.91 down 1.58
Bargains: 23,210
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 108.85 up 0.03
New York: Dow Jones Average: (latest) 1165.10 down 6.38
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10,088.94 up 32.43
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1102.05 up 22.42

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling
$1.4850 up 40pts
Index 82.1 down 0.3
DM 3.8325 up 0.0025
FrF 11.7750 down 0.015
Yen 333 down 5.0
Dollar
Index 125.1 down 0.4
DM 2.5755 down 0.0052
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling $1.4880
Dollar DM 2.5100
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.584911
SDR £0.717017

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 9⅛-9
3 month Interbank 9 1/16-8 15/16
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10⅛-10
3 month DM 5 9/16-5 7/16
3 month Fr F 16⅝-16⅛
US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 7/8
Treasury long bond 98 1/32-98 5/32

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am $406.85 pm $405.85
close $405.50-406 (£272.75-273.25)
New York (latest): $405.25
*Krugerrand** (per coin): $418-419.50 (£281-282)
Sovereigns* (new): $95.2596.25 (£64-64.75)
*Excludes VAT

January lull in spending boom

By Frances Williams
Economics Correspondent

Business in the shops dropped by 3 per cent in January, giving the retail trade its worst month since last summer. But fears of an end to the consumer spending spree may be premature.

Heavy snow and the start of winter sales in late December are thought to have been largely responsible for the fall, according to officials at the trade and industry department.

The latest survey of retailers by the Confederation of British Industry suggests that business recovered strongly in February.

Despite the January setback, the volume of retail sales was still 2.5 per cent higher than a year earlier. Trade in the three months to January, adjusted for seasonal factors, was 1 per cent up on the previous three months and 5.25 per cent above the level of a year ago.

Rebasing of the retail sales figures, so that 1980 now equals 100, has slightly reduced estimated growth last year from 5.7 per cent over 1982 to 5.3 per cent.

RETAIL SALES AND CREDIT

	Sales by volume 1980=100	New credit extended (£m)
1981	100.4	7,854
1982	102.5	9,109
1983	107.9	10,521
1982 Q4	103.9	2,477
1983 Q1	105.5	2,520
Q2	107.3	2,540
Q3	108.3	2,646
Q4	110.3	2,815
1983 Nov	110.9	959
Dec	111.0	978
1984 Jan	107.7	965

Source Department of Trade and Industry.

The government will publish next week its Budget forecasts for the economy over the coming year or so.

Separate figures from the trade and industry department show little slackening in people's eagerness to borrow. Retailers, finance houses and other specialists lent £965m in January, only slightly less than December's record of £978m.

● Steady rapid growth of 3 to 4 per cent a year accompanied by a return to price stability and a drop in unemployment to under 2 million by 1987 are forecast by Liverpool University economists headed Professor Patrick Minford in their latest *Quarterly Economic Bulletin.*

Rival Scott Lithgow bid likely today

By Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

Howard Doris, the Anglo-French oil rig builder, is expected to deliver its rival bid today for the threatened Scott Lithgow shipyard on the Clyde after talks yesterday with British Shipbuilders and leading union officials.

The offer, which will compete with that of Trafalgar House, the shipping and property group, is believed to involve the retention of most of the Scott Lithgow work force in the hope that the Scottish yard's two outstanding rig contracts – with British Petroleum and Britoil – can be renegotiated.

Trafalgar House, owner of the QE2, reached conditional agreement to buy the yard on February 8, but the deal – favoured by government ministers at the time – would result in up to 2,250 of the 3,500 workers losing their jobs. The agreement lapsed at the end of February, but Trafalgar House has since made *clear its intention to* continue negotiations.

The fate of the yard, which will be closed if the two bids are withdrawn, now seems certain *to be decided this week.* Trafalgar House has been involved in negotiations with British Shipbuilders for two months and now has a team of 60 people engaged on the deal, *an expense which it will very* soon be forced to curtail.

Howard Doris, which already operates a yard at Loch Kishorn on the west coast of Scotland, *appeared confident yesterday* that it would succeed in taking over Scott Lithgow. Today, its technical director, Mr Ian McLeod, will deliver a 2,000 page technical presentation to Britoil in Aberdeen. This will be followed on Thursday by a contractual meeting between Britoil and Doris's chairman, Mr Albert Granville.

Cuckney in line to head Royal

By Philip Robinson

Sir John Cuckney, the man backed by financial institutions to rescue John Brown, has emerged as favourite to become the next chairman of Royal Insurance.

Mr Daniel Meinertzhagen, Royal's present chairman, is 70 next March. It is the company's custom to elect its chairman annually and not to allow *directors to remain after their* seventieth birthday.

Yesterdat Mr Meinertzhagen told shareholders of Alexanders

Sir John Cuckney: expected to become sole deputy

Discount that he would retire as their chairman at the end of this *month.* Alexanders has agreed a *£29m takeover bid* from Mercantile House Holdings. "It would not make sense for me to remain as the new merger goes through and I approach my seventieth birthday," he said.

Royal Insurance has two deputy chairmen: Sir John and Mr Malcolm McAlpine. Mr McAlpine, in his mid 60s, has been a director since 1977 and *deputy chairman* since 1980. Sir John, aged 58, became a Royal director in 1979 and was appointed a deputy last year.

Traditionally Royal appoints its chairman from the ranks of the deputies. Mr Meinertzhagen was made a director and deputy chairman in 1974 before taking over as non-executive chairman from Sir Paul Chambers.

Next month a clear indication of the new heir apparent will emerge with the publication of Royal's annual report and accounts. These are expected to show that Sir John will become the sole deputy chairman.

Satellite costs hit News International

By William Kay, City Editor

News International, the British arm of Mr Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, yesterday announced that profits for the half-year to December 31, 1983, rose to £18.65m against £12.22m for the comparable period in the previous year. Turnover was up from £194.70m to £223m. News International owns Times Newspapers, publisher of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, and also publishes *The Sun* and *News of the World*.

However, the profit has been struck before extraordinary *items.* The net deficit on these items rose from £1.77m to £32.16m. A statement from the company said: "Extraordinary items consist of the settlement of the transponder leases in the United States, and other costs following the decision to postpone satellite operations in the country, and unfavourable currency movements."

A dividend of 3.5415p per share was declared yesterday on News International's Special Dividend Shares, being the sterling equivalent of the interim dividend of 5.5 Australian cents declared by the board of News Corporation for the year ending June 30, 1984.

The dividend will be paid on April 27 to shareholders on the register on April 5. News Corporation owns 100 per cent of the voting shares in News International, and 89 per cent of the non-voting shares.

News Corporation itself yesterday reported a profit of *A$52.27m (£33.36m) for the* half-year to December, against A$27.16m in the first half of last year. The latest figure was mainly due to unfavourable fluctuation on foreign currency transactions and conversions, less net gain on disposal of non-current assets. Total revenue was up from A*714m to A$872m.

Computer group seeks quote

By Wayne Lintott

Systems Reliability, a computer group, is seeking a quote on the London Stock Exchange. Barclays Merchant Bank yesterday announced the sale of 2,631,500 shares, equivalent to 29.6 per cent of the company's equity, at 270p a share.

The broker to the issue is Phillips & Drew. Subject to the shares being admitted to the official list, it expects dealings *to begin* on March 19.

At the price sought, the company would have a stock market capitalization of £28.4m. Barclays said that since the year ended December, 1979 Systems pretax profits have risen at an annual compound rate of 86.5 per cent and amounted to £2m for 1983.

Systems Reliability designs, manufactures and sells computer-based telephone management equipment and provides back-up maintenance for its own and other manufacturers' computer systems. It sells under *the trade name* Tel-Tag.

Eastern block loans to resume

From Bailey Morris, Washington

For the first time since the Polish debt crisis of 1981, Western banks are to resume lending this year to the Soviet Union and Eastern block countries, which have made impressive progress in reorganizing their economies over the past three years.

Surveys by private US banks and the private forecaster Wharton Econometrics in Washington, revealed that Western banks, particularly those in Western Europe expect *a surge in terms of net new* lending to the Soviet block.

With the exception of Poland, which remains deeply in debt, the collective debt of the five other eastern European nations declined from $35.9 billion (£24.5 billion) in 1981 to $29.9 billion last June, when the most recent figures were compiled.

During the same period, the trade balances of Eastern European countries improved dramatically. Preliminary fig*ures from Wharton Econo*metrics for last year revealed a surplus with non-communist countries of $5.3 billion, compared with a deficit of $3.9 billion in 1980 and a surplus of $475m in 1981.

These gains have convinced bankers in the West that they should ease pressure on Eastern Europe to repay its debts and at the same time increase the pace of debt rollovers to give the nations more flexibility.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Goldsmith confirms US deal

Sir James Goldsmith yesterday *confirmed* reports that his General Oriental company had acquired "as an investment" 4.7 per cent of the common stock of St Regis Corporation, the US paper-maker. He has paid $59.8m (£40.4m). *GO has also* entered into an agreement with other investors who have paid $52.5m for another 3.9 per cent of St Regis.

The associates are believed to include Charterhouse J. Rothschild, the London merchant bank and Mr Kerry Packer's Consolidated Press of Australia. *Talks, so far inconclusive*, have been held between Sir James and the St Regis board.

● **Mills & Allen** International has bought Glen Insurance Brokers for £2m. Glen has 25 stores with an annual income of £4.9m and this takes M&I's branch network to 118, servicing 330,000 customers.

● **New Zealand's** current account balance of payments deficit narrowed to $NZ92m (£44m) in January from $NZ205m in December, compared with a $NZ34m surplus in January last year.

● **Palmer and Harvey** yesterday made a £1.28m rescue bid for P. Panto, the loss-making wholesale tobacconist, confectioner and grocer. The terms of the offer, worth 30p a share in cash, have been agreed by the company's directors.

Hongkong jobs boost

By John Lawless

Hongkong's order for two electric power plants, worth £2 billion, has provided 17,000 jobs for between five and seven years in Britain's areas of high unemployment, Mr Len Dunning, executive director of the Hong Kong Trade Development *Council, said yesterday.*

And if this month's bid by GEC to supply turbines and other equipment for China's nuclear programme succeeded, it would only be because Hongkong had agreed to buy back 70 per cent of the electricity from the new nuclear power station at Daya Bay, in China.

"We are buying billions of pounds worth of sophisticated equipment from Britain, which probably makes Hongkong the biggest British market in the Far East. But more British companies have to learn how to use Hongkong's unique relationship with China to clinch the very substantial deals that are now being done," Mr Dunning said.

The surge in companies setting up in Hongkong proved that the more alert companies had ignored gloomy reports about the colony's future.

"During 1983," *he said*, "a total of 257 new foreign companies registered in Hongkong and in the first 10 months foreign interests invested HK$7.8 billion (£91m) in the manufacturing sector alone.

Four British banks face losses

Japanese trader goes under

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

Shock waves from the collapse of a medium-sized trading group in Tokyo, J Osawa and Company, are being felt by a large number of banks around the world, including four British banks, which stand to lose part, if not most, of a reported 16.2 billion yen (£45.9m) credit given by foreign banks.

The Osawa group, a little-known company, may have dished up the worst and most widespread losses ever suffered by foreign banks in doing business with a Japanese company.

Citibank is the largest of the foreign lenders, with 2.7 billion yen, followed by Chartered Bank with 1.862 billion yen and Hongkong and Shanghai Bank with 1.243 billion yen. Most of *the lending by these three banks* was made to Osawa subsidiaries around the world, according to a list published yesterday by *Japan Financial Report*, a Tokyo-based economic newsletter.

Further down the creditors' list are Midland Bank with 220m yen (£620,000) lent to Osawa in Japan and 356m yen (about £1m) to Osawa overseas, National Westminster with 533m yen (£1.5m) loans in Japan and Grindlays with 400m yen (£1.13m) in Japan. Globally, there are 42 banks in 14 countries involved. In Japan, there are 73 banks who have *lent 42 billion yen.*

Outside Japan, the most heavily involved in loans to Osawa subsidiaries among the 42 foreign banks are Inter-Alpha (Hong Kong) with 881m yen, United Overseas Bank (Singapore) with 341m yen, and National Australian Bank with 326m yen, according to the Tokyo newsletter.

Osawa's petition for court protection last week, under Japan's bankruptcy laws, rocked the Tokyo financial community. It is the third largest corporate failure in Japan since the war. Its total debt is placed as high as 125 billion yen.

The damage has already begun to spread. Mamiya Camera, whose high-quality products were distributed by Osawa, yesterday sought court protection with 25 billion yen in debts. This is the first instance in Japan of one listed company bringing down another since the end of the war. Osawa's woes began with a *slump* in camera sales and its other lines of products, especially sports goods.

APPOINTMENTS

Plessey Three-Five names new chief

Plessey Three-Five Group: Mr Alan Price has been appointed managing director.

Williams & Glyn's Bank: Mr *Alan Peers* has been appointed assistant general manager, Domestic Banking North, in succession to Mr John Newton who has retired. Mr M H Vaisey, senior manager, Holt's Branches and Child & Co, has become assistant general manager in the bank's personnel division, the post previously held by Mr Peers.

Gill & Duffus Ltd: Mr I C L Hartrison and Mr B N Tribe have been appointed directors of the company, a subsidiary of *Gill & Duffus* Group. Mr P J Day has been made deputy chairman. Mr K B Jenkins and Mr R M Swinchatt have been appointed joint managing director.

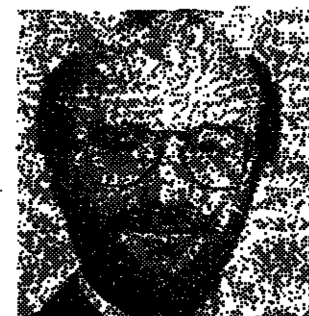
Ibstock Johnsen: Mr Philip Ling has become a non-executive director. He is group managing director of London & Midland Industrials.

Tyzack & Partners: Mr Edmund Barton has become a partner in the associate company in Hong Kong, Tyzack & Partners (*Far East*).

Hanson Trust: Mr Peter Harper has been appointed director. Mr harper is executive chairman of Allders, the retail division of Hanson Trust.

Ferranti: Mr David Grundy, head of Ferranti Microelectronics Centre, has joined the board of Ferranti Electronics.

Rowbotham Insurance Group: Mr P F Dennis will relinquish the position of


Alan Price: top place at Plessey

managing director of C Rowbotham & Sons (Insurance) and the title of *group chief executive*, and become deputy chairman. Mr C H Bowen will assume the responsibilities of group chief executive. Mr Dennis continues as chairman of all the subsidiary boards and retains responsibility for companies in which the group has an investment. Mr Bowen will be appointed deputy chairman of the subsidiary boards, with the exception of Rowbotham de Rougemont.

National Home Improvement Council: Mr Jim Fallon, MK Electric's director – external relations, has been re-elected to the board.

Arbuthnot Factors: Mr Gordon Harris and Mr Roger Taylor have become directors.

D. Anderson & Son: Mr Richard Gribbin has joined the board as director responsible for finance and administration. He was previously company secretary and chief accountant.

Bullough's second purchase in a week

By Philip Robinson

Bullough, the engineering and furniture making group, yesterday paid £4.8m for a private business aids and stationery company. It brings to more than £11m the total Bullough has spent on acquisitions in the past week, and to almost £15m in the past five months.

Five days ago it paid £6.5m for George Barker and Company (Leeds), the engineers, which also makes refrigerated display cabinets, 87 per cent of whose sales went last year to Marks and Spencer.

In the *latest* round, Bullough's has bought, for cash and shares, Westwood Holdings from Mr H. Gerald Kennedy and his family. It is paying £4m cash and issuing 265,000 shares. Last night Bullough's shares fell 10p to 323p.

Bullough is funding the purchase through a seven-year loan from its bank. Net assets of Westward at the end of last December were £2.68m. Pretax profit came out at £981,000 after £10.2m exceptional costs on sales. Exceptional costs, including pension provisions, amounted to £181,000 last year and are estimated at £69,000 from the date of the acquisition.

Westward's business aids operation imports and distributes guillotines, collators and other office equipment.

Bullough's profits record has been patchy but they rose to a pretax high of £6.8m last year.

British Vita given 43% earnings lift

By Jeremy Warner

British Vita, which makes foam rubber and duvets, staged a big recovery in profits last year and should fare even better this year, as all the company's *divisions increase their investment* programmes.

Profits before tax leapt 43 per cent, from £7.4m to £10.6m, boosting the group's return on capital from 18 per cent to 23 per cent, helped by the economic recovery.

On the stock market yesterday, the company's share price rose 9p to 213p encouraged by the results and inspired by news of a 3p final dividend, raising the total for the year from 5.4p to 5.9p. A one-for-ten scrip issue is proposed.

Mr Robert McGee, the company's chief executive, said that with a stronger balance sheet, showing net borrowings down to 12 per cent of shareholders' funds, every division had a "very significant investment programme".

The most exciting of these he saw as the £2m investment by *the consumer products division* on a new fully-automated factory at Middleton, near Manchester.

The project will create 80 jobs.

Capital spending in Europe generally is projected to rise by more than half this year, from last year's level of £3.5m. The group is also planning significant international development, particularly in Australia and the Far East.

The Australian company is *due to go public* in the next few months.

Although the big increase in profits last year came in Britain, overseas profits were slightly lower.

Farm machinery maker harvests 57% profit rise

By Ian Griffiths

Ransomes Sims & Jefferies, the Ipswich farm machinery manufacturers, said yesterday that it has continued its recovery, with profit before tax up by 57 per cent to £3.2m for the year to December 1983.

Once again the performance was assisted by the results of the US subsidiary, Ransomes Inc. At home, the rationalization of the parent company's manufacturing operations and improved control over working capital, *in* particular stocks, allowed a reduction in group borrowings of £5.3m. Interest payments also fell by £500,000 to £1.7m.

With group profit after tax and extraordinary items for the year up by more than £600,000 to £2.19m, there is a final dividend of 10p which, together with the interim dividend, will make a total of 15p for the year.

Management buyout for two IMI subsidiaries

IMI, the Birmingham-based matals group, has sold two small local subsidiaries to the existing management. National Westminster Bank has supported the deal with a £1.5m financing package.

The decision to sell IMI Wilkinson, which employs 120 people in Saltley, and J. R. Ratcliff (Metals), which employs 73 people in Newton, was taken by IMI after attempting to return the companies to profits after three years of losses.

The six-man consortium which is taking over the businesses includes Mr Geoff Birch, previously managing director of the two subsidiaries, and Mr Alec Abercrombie, the former financial director of IMI Rolled Metals. IMI Wilkinson manufactures nickel silver which is used in the telecommunications industry. J. R. Ratcliff makes brass strip and foil.

Both businesses have been hit by falling demand for their products.

In brief

● **LEDA INVESTMENT TRUST:** Commercial Union has sold 120,000 income shares (9.94 per cent) in Leda Investment Trust, reducing its stake to 495,000 income shares.

● **NEW EQUIPMENT:** Pretax profits for year to Oct 31, 1983, £283,000 (£287,000). Turnover £2.85m (£2.73m). Total dividend unchanged at 1.15p net a share.

● **SANTOS FACILITIES**, a subsidiary of Santos Ltd, has signed a US $100m (£67.5m) term-loan agreement in Singapore. The funds will be used by the Santos group for its expanding general corporate funding needs. The loan was arranged and managed by Australia and New Zealand Banking, Singapore branch.

● **ADWEST TAKEOVER:** The Adwest Group has bought the Abeco and Esgo plastics machinery companies from Mr Z. Bieganski and members of his family. Principal activity of Abeco is specialist tools for the electronics and electrical industries. Adwest has aquired 75 per cent of the capital, with an option to acquire the remaining 25 per cent after three years. Net asset value of Abeco at aquisition was £685,000.

● **CDFC'S £1.4M INVESTMENT:** Commonwealth Development Finance has invested $Can.2.5m (£1.4m) in Counsel Trustco Corpn., the holding company of Counsel Trust, an Ontario-incorporated trust company. Counsel Trust had gross assets of $Can.167m in December, 1983. Its main activity is mortgage lending, funded by customer-deposits.

● **BRIDON** is to buy selected assets of US Steel through its US offshoot, Bridon American Corp. Main assets included in the agreement are the wire rope and strand manufacturing facilities in New Jersey and Indiana. Value of these assets is about $3m (£2m).

● **PARKER KNOLL:** Half-year to Jan 31, 1984. Turnover £20.26m (£18.75m). Pretax profit £1.42m (£1.4m). Interim payment up from 2.5p to 3p net a share.

● **DARES ESTATES** has agreed to buy Rogate for £2.6m in loan stock. Rogate owns freehold and long commercial properties with a market value of about £5.21m.

● **CENTREWAY INDUSTRIES** has purchased from the receiver the business and assets of Digico, for £265,000. Digico is based in Leeds and manufactures mini and micro computers.

● **SLOUGH INDUSTRIAL ESTATES** has sold to Shell Pensions Trust the first two phases of its Garrick industrial centre development, north of Staples Corner adjacent to Edgware Road and close to Brent Cross Shopping Centre. Consideration was of the order of £7m.

● **CHARTERHOUSE DEVELOPMENT:** A consortium by Charterhouse Development, the development capital offshoot of Charterhouse J. Rothschild, has agreed in principle to purchase the magnets business of BOC.

● ***RIO ALGOM:*** Net earnings for 1983 *jumped* from $17.81m (Canadian) to $51.14m (about £27.6m). Revenue rose from $760.2m to $779.7m.

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MARKET REPORT ● by Michael Clark

Investors switch to gilts as shares slip

It was a day for profit-taking yesterday, as investors decided to pull their money out of equities and switch it into Government securities.

Further indications from the money market of a ½ per cent cut in bank base rates before long produced gains of up to £1½ at the longer end of the market. The Government broker was finally able to exhaust remaining supplies of the "tap", Exchequer, 9¾ per cent, 1998, at the partly-paid price of £25½.

Lists open tomorrow for the new "tap" – £1,000m of Exchequer, 10 per cent 1989 – being offered by way of tender ahead of dealings on Thursday. Dealers expect the issue to be warmly received by investors who have decided to sell part parts of their portfolios to pay for it. As a result, by the close, longs had seen their lead cut to only £⅛, while mediums and shorts were barely changed on Friday night's close.

Dealers said that the market's undertone remained firm, but, after the exhaustion of the "tap", it was suffering from indigestion.

The equity market quickly ran out of steam after a firm start, with the big City institutions deciding to use the second leg of the account as an excuse to level up their positions ahead of the Budget. A disappointing start to trading on Wall Street did little to stem the flow of sellers.

The retail sector was singled out after the latest set of Retail Sales figures failed to live up to market expectations.

The FT Index closed 6.3 down at 832.6, having been 3.1 up at 10 am, while the FT–SE 100 dropped 7.0 to 1053.7.

Blue chips were all marked lower, with **BOC Group** down 3 at 257p, **Beecham** 10p at 321p, **Bowater** 6p at 250p, **Glaxo** 15p at 780p, **ICI** 4p at 588p, **Plessey** 4p at 216p and **GEC** 3p at 183p.

Among the big high street clearers **Barclays Bank** got the bank's reporting season off to a start. But the figures were judged to be below par and the shares after dipping 514p closed unchanged at 522p. The three remaining banks, all reporting later this week, appeared to take the news in their stride, apart from **National Westminster** which lost 15p to 694p. **Lloyds** rose 8p to 582p and **Midland** 15p to 399p.

The strong gilt market prompted support for the discount houses with **Clive Discount** up 1p at 59p, **Gerrard & National** 3p at 317p, **Smith St Aubyn** 1p at 67p and **Union Discount** 5p at 753p.

The life insurance market continued to lose ground still worried by uncertainties over the tax treatment for life insurance policies and gilt investments. Only the appearance of a few cheap buyers enabled them to close above their worst levels. **Britannic** lost 13p at 465p, after 461p, **Equity & Law** 23p at 754p after 751p, **Hambros Life** 12p at 416p, **Legal & General** 9p at 474p, **London & Manchester** 8p at 473p, **Pearl Assurance** 17p at 774p, **Prudential** 2p at 438p, **Refuge Assurance** 12p at 404p and **Sun Life** 25p at 574p.

Southern Resources, the Australian gold miner which raised A$1.25m (£801,000) last year to prove its Mt Pleasant gold prospect near Kalgoorlie, is likely to report good drilling results in its April quarterly statement. London brokers were told last week that Mt Pleasant's reserves could be at least 4 million ounces. At 116p the shares are below their high for 1983-4.

The composite insurance companies, half way through their reporting season, were able to muster selective support with **Commercial Union** continuing to rally in the wake of recent disappointing figures. The shares ended the day 5p higher at 179p. **General Accident** added 11p to 486p, **Guardian Royal Exchange** 5p to 528p, **Phoenix Assurance** 7p to 448p and **Royal Insurance** 7p to 548p.

Wedd Durlacher & Mordaunt, London's largest jobbing firm, has confirmed it is down to a short list of suitable applicants to link up with in the run up to dual capacity. Yesterday a partner, Mr Graham Ferguson, denied weekend speculation that the list included Kleinwort Benson, Chase Manhattan or Phillips & Drew. "It's not even inspired guesswork, but we are down to a shortlist of two or three", he said.

Dealers reported late buying of brewery shares ahead of today's beer production figures for January. These are expected to make brighter reading than originally thought and added 1p to **Allied Lyons** at 152p, while **Bass** put on 5p to 323p, **Vaux Breweries** 2p to 207p **Whitbread 'A'** 1p to 144p. January is usually a slow period for the breweries so soon after the Christmas festivities and it is thought many of them may have been carrying unusually high levels of stock.

The retail sales showed a 3 per cent fall in January owing to the winter blizzards which swept the country. Analaysts now estimate that the expected bounce of figures in February will now still leave the final figure below December's record level. Among yesterday's casualtics **Debenhams** lost 1p to 154p, **House of Fraser** 2p to 282p, **Boots** 6p to 163p, **Great Universal Stores 'A'** 7p to 588p and the ordinary 4p to 601p, **Marks & Spencer** 1p to 233p and **British Home Stores** cut short an early lead to close unchanged at 211p.

Irish oil exploration group **Atlantic Resources** slumped 30p to 468p after the news that Dublin stockbroker Harvey & Leahy had been suspended under Rule 15 (3) after running into liquidity problems. One of its clients has refused to pay up after certain deals in shares of Atlantic. A further announcement may be made later today.

Burmatex opened with a healthy premium in fist-time dealings at 172p, compared with the placing price of 155p. The group, which supplies floor-coverings and carpet tiles, was brought to market by broker de Zoete & Bevan, but no new money was raised by the placing, which valued the entire company at £11m. For the six months to May 31, the group has forecast pretax profits of £750,000.

The Stock Exchange Council has decided to suspend dealings in the Hongkong property group, **Mandarin Resources** – just a week after dealings were started in London. Mandarin was suspended on the Hongkong market for many months at about the 5p level, but received a London quote after a cash injection from Jenks & Cattel, the garden tools group.

A statement from the Council said it had decided to suspend dealings under Rule 163 (4) until further notice, but no reason was given. The shares were suspended at 5p. Rule 163 (4) governs dealings of foreign stocks quoted on the London market.

On the Unlisted Securities Market, shares of **John Kent**, which came to market earlier this year, following a de-merger from Amber Day fell ½p to 39½p after **Trustees Corp.** announced it now owns 8 per cent of company.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The dollar staged a late rally in response to some short-covering when transatlantic markets began operations yesterday. At the close the dollar, which had been about a cent down on the pound earlier, was 40 points lower at 1.4850.

Sterling maintained a firm stance on Middle Eastern uncertainties, but growing speculation over a cut in United Kingdom interest rates prompted a little nervous selling.

The pound was down against the Deutschemark at 3.8260 (3.8300) and also showed a sharp fall against a strong yen as 331.50 (338.00),

MONEY MARKETS

The Bank of England indicated yesterday that it was not yet prepared to accept the lower interest rates for which the market was pressing.

By mid-morning, steeply declining money market rates were all but discounting the possibility of a round of base rate cuts from 9 to 8½ per cent.

Houses, therefore, were not willing to sell paper to any significant extent when the authorities sought to relieve a shortage of about £250m.

But the Bank, perhaps with today's announcement of banking figures in mind, was not to be shifted in its dealing rates. Hence only £81m of bank bills in bands one and two changed hands at the old levels.

Yet the Bank did show that it was not entirely unsympathetic when lending the market £290m late in the session to take the day's assisantce to £371m.

Houses were prepared to pay up to 9½ per cent for funds during the morning and early afternoon, but once the late help filtered through, secured money rates fell away. Closing balances were mostly taken at about 5 or 6 per cent.

Pressure on base rates increased as period rates extended Friday's decline in early trading.

Sterling certificates of deposit dealers reported brisk buying in nearly all periods out to one year during the first hour.

Gartmore to launch information trust

by Philip Robinson

Gartmore Investment Management, a fund management group owned by Exco International and British & Commonwealth Shipping, is starting its own investment trust specializing in financial and information technology. It is believed to be the first such British fund.

Gartmore is creating it through the London & Lomond Investment Trust for which it has provided the investment management service since the 1930s.

About 40 per cent of London & Lomond investments are in information technology, mainly in America. Gartmore has close contact with an American west coast venture capital firm, Chappell & Co, through a 30 per cent stake owned by Fisdec, an investment group which is 40 per cent owned by Exco and 60 per cent owned by British & Commonwealth Shipping.

London and Lomond will seek shareholder approval for the changes at the annual and extraordinary meetings on March 28. These include a change of name to Gartmore Information and Financial Trust and a scrip issue.

In the stock market yesterday the shares jumped 12p to 117p. The fund is worth about £60m.

Beechwood shares are suspended

Shares of Beechwood Group, the Welsh-based construction and mechanical engineering group, were suspended at 9.35am on the London stock market yesterday, after falling to a new low of 15p for the year.

Beechwood said the shares had been suspended at the company's request, pending clarification of its position. For the six months to September 30, 1983, the group reported losses of £682,457, against pretax profits of £101,879 last time.

GKN bid ruling 'in two weeks'

By Andrew Cornelius

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission has delivered its report on the proposed merger of rival Midlands motor components manufacturers, Guest, Keen & Nettlefold and AE (formerly Associated Engineering) a week ahead of schedule. Mr Norman Tebbit, the trade and industry secretary, received his copy of the report last week and is expected to give his verdict on the merger within the next two weeks.

Analysts expect the Monopolies Commission to give the all-clear for GKN to renew its £67m bid for AE with a higher offer.

GKN has argued that the merger should be seen in the context of the wider international markets. But AE says that it would create a monopoly in the supply of engine bearings and cylinder linings and that there would be a net loss of business to Britain.

WALL STREET

Stock prices weaken in moderate trading

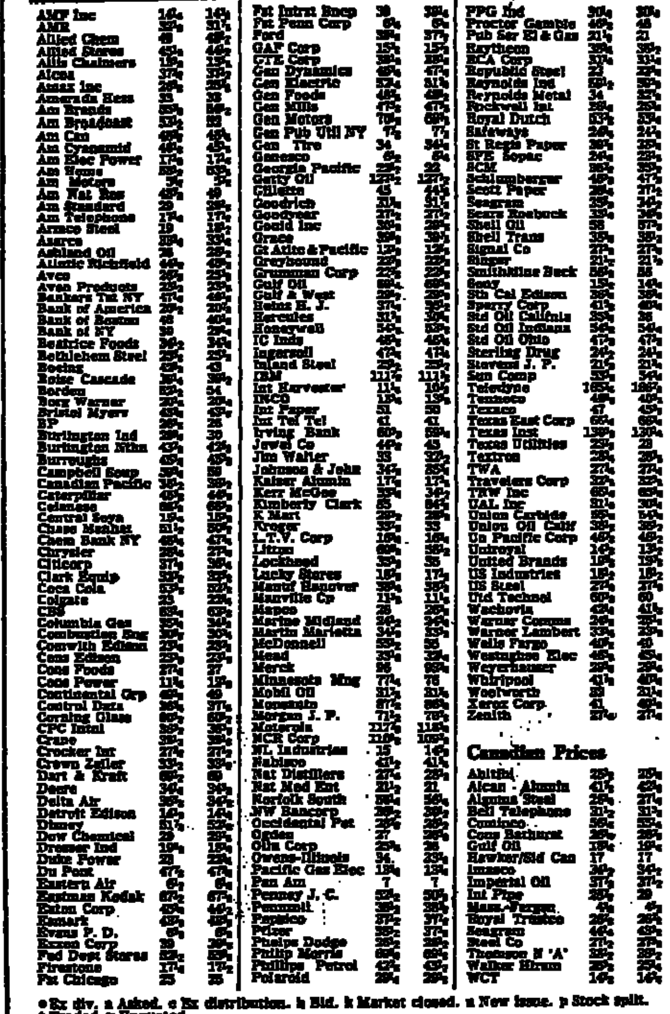
New York (AP Dow Jones) – Shares were moving down with the Dow Jones industrial average off 6.70 points to 1164.78 in early trading. The Transportation Index was down more than four.

Declines had a 3-to-2 lead over advances in moderately active trading.

Mr Ralph Acampora, vice-president for technical analysis at Kidder Peabody, expects the market to "tread water in the near term. There was little weekend news to help things along but the pace should pick up later on.

International Business Machines was off ½ at 111⅜, General Motors off ¼ to 69⅞, Exxon off ⅛ to 38⅝, NCR down 1⅛ at 109, Teledyne down 1 at 164¾, Merck off ¼ at 95¾ and American Express off ⅛ at 29⅞.

WALL STREET



	Mar 2	Mar 1		Mar 2	Mar 1		Mar 2	Mar 1
AMF Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	Fst Intrst Bncp	[illegible]	[illegible]	PPG Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]
AMR	[illegible]	[illegible]	Fst Penn Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Proctor Gamble	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allied Chem	[illegible]	[illegible]	Ford	[illegible]	[illegible]	Pub Ser El & Gas	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allied Stores	[illegible]	[illegible]	GAF Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	Raytheon	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allis Chalmers	[illegible]	[illegible]	GTE Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	RCA Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alcoa	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Dynamics	[illegible]	[illegible]	Republic Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amax Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Electric	[illegible]	[illegible]	Reynolds Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amerada Hess	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gen Foods	[illegible]	[illegible]	Reynolds Metal	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES
Rubber in £s per tonne; Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per metric ton; Gas-oil in US $ per metric ton.

RUBBER	
Apl	820-00
May	820-05
Apl/Jne	815-03
Jne/Sep	836-35
Oct/Dec	854-53
Jan/Mch	874-68
Apl/Jne	890-83
Jne/Sep	910-98
Oct/Dec	940-13
Vol:	100

SUGAR	
May	182.00-181.80
Aug	195.00-194.80
Oct	205.80-205.60
Dec	210.40-210.00
Mar	228.00-227.20
May	236.20-234.60
Aug	245.00-242.60
Vol:	1.611

COCOA	
Mar	1700-95
May	1714-13
July	1720-18
Sep	1724-20
Dec	1717-10
Mar	1711-10
May	1709-05
Vol:	4.102

COFFEE	
Mar	2188-2185
May	1990-1988
July	1892-1891
Sep	1832-1830
Nov	1800-1796
Jan	1768-1762
Mar	1731-1726
Vol:	3.971

GAS OIL	
Mar	250.25-250.50
Apl	249.75-250.00
May	249.00-249.25
Jne	247.75-248.25
July	248.00-238.50
Aug	249.75-253.00
Sep	251.00-252.00
Oct	253.75-255.00
Nov	254.75-259.00
Vol:1.961	

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
Unofficial prices: Official turnover figures.
Prices in pounds per metric ton. Silver in pence per troy ounce.
Rudolf Wolff & Co. Ltd. report

COPPER HIGH GRADE	
Cash	993.50-994.00
Three months	1014-00.1014.50
T/O	10.300
Tone: steady.	
STANDARD CATHODES	
Cash	982.00-982.50
Three months	1002.00-10030.00
T/O	275
Tone: steady.	
TIN STANDARD	
Cash	8490-8495
Three months	8597-8598
T/O:	565
Tone: steadier.	
TIN HIGH-GRADE	
Cash	8490-8500
Three months	8620-8625
T/O:	285
Tone: Steadier.	
LEAD	
Cash	295.50-296.00
Three months	303.50-304.00
ZINC	
Cash	678.00-680.00
Three months	666.00-667.00
T/O:	4,200
Tone: Steady.	
SILVER LARGE	
Cash	675.00-676.00
Three months	690.50-692.00
T/O:	76
Tone: Barely steady.	
SILVER SMALL	
Cash	675.00-676.00
Three months	691.00-692.00
T/O:	nil
Tone: Idle.	
ALUMINIUM	
Cash	996.50-.997.57
Three months	1020.50-1021.00
T/O:	8.000
Tone: Barely steady.	
NICKEL	
Cash	3081-3082
Three months	3155-3160
T/O:	426
Tone: Steady.	

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET
In US $ per oz.

Mar	405.00-407.00
Apl	408.00-408.60
Jne	415.00-415.40
Aug	421.80-422.60
Oct	429.00-430.00
Dec	436.50-438.00
Vol:	625
Tone: Irregular.	

LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES
Rudolf Wolff Financial Services Ltd.

Month	Volume	Settlement
YEN		
Mar'84	26	4485
Jun'84	256	4528
Sep'84	1	4559
Comment: Sterling.		
STERLING		
Mar'84	62	1.4965
Jun'84	117	1.4910
Sep'84	-	1.4970
Comment: Steady.		
D-MARK		
Mar'84	16	3886
Jun'84	111	3936
Sep'84	-	3976
Comment: Slightly better.		
SWISS FRANC		
Mar'84	16	4723
Jun'84	39	4797
Sep'84	-	-
Comment: Varied.		
EURODOLLARS		
Mar'84	256	9003
Jun'84	2142	8963
Sep'84	169	8919
Dec'84	113	8890
Mar'84	-	8864
Comment: Steady.		
SHORT STERLING		
Mar'84	60	9114
Jun'84	909	9117
Sep'84	291	9105
Dec'84	135	9089
Mar'85	4	9075
Comment: Firm.		
GILTS		
Mar'84	786	10907
Jun'84	2784	10911
Sep'84	38	10824
Dec'84	24	10811
Mar'85	16	10726
Comment: Easier.		

£2.9m video deal for Carlton

By Jeremy Warner

Carlton Communications is expanding its presence in the fast-growing British video and film industry with the purchase of Video Time for £2.9m in cash and shares.

The group describes Video Time, which was formed in 1978, as "one of the most comprehensive facility houses in Europe." Its business is mainly the adaptation of television programmes from one standard national television system to another. It also transfers film onto video tape, dubs and puts still slides onto video.

In the year to the end of this month it is expected to make pretax profits of £400,000.

The acquisition will further consolidate Carlton's position as one of the largest post-production film companies in Britain. It already claims to be the biggest in post-production of promotional videos, particularly for the popular music industry.

All the independent British television companies use Video Time and the British Broadcasting Corporation is the largest single customer, accounting for about 4 per cent of the company's business last year.

Video Time is looking for additional premises and is in talks with British Telecom about leasing transponder time on a direct broadcast satellite which it expects to be a high growth area over the next five years.

Carlton's shares rose 5p to 460p on news of the latest acquisition. The purchase price consists of a £2m cash payment with the rest in shares which the vendors have promised to hold for at least two years.

Forshaws may raise Border bid

The behind-the-scenes battle for control of Border Breweries of Wrexham broke out into the open yesterday when Forshaws Burtonwood Brewery of Warrington said it was contemplating a bid "materially higher than 250p a share" which would be worth £13.4m in total.

The statement was prompted by news that Border was very close to agreeing takeover terms with Marston Thompson & Evershed, the Burton-on-Trent brewer. It is believed that the share swop terms were to have been irrevocably accepted by enough shareholders to give Marston control, depriving Forshaws of the chance of putting new terms to the company.

The Forshaws chairman, Mr Graeme Dutton Forshaw, said he was furious about the impending deal with Marston. He has been given until Wednesday to decided whether to make his new bid or not.

Black profits up after shop sales

By Our City Staff

The new look Black & Edgington, stripped of the traditional camping and leisure business for which it was best known, increased pretax profits from £1.1m in 1982 to £1.4m last year.

However, the company, which is now controlled by Mr Michael Ashcroft's Hawley Group after a £15m bid last June, points out that comparison of the figures between the two years is misleading because of the disposals during 1983.

These included the Blacks Camping and Leisure shops, which were sold to a consortium of businessmen and investment institutions for £3m. They have been excluded from the reported 1983 results as a consequence.

The group will be reduced to two main operating divisions, travel and hire, both of which are trading profitably, once further disposals which are under discussion have been completed.

The travel division, which is what attracted Hawley's bid last year and which includes the Evan Evans coach tour company, made profits of nearly £2m last year on sales of £18.9m.

Significant growth is expected from this business and indications for 1984 are promising, with bookings up by a quarter on the same period last year.

The group is charging £4.2m to reserves because of the losses incurred on the closure of two companies and provisions being made for other closures.

A dividend of 1p on the ordinary shares and 3p on the convertible participating cumulative preference shares will be paid.

The company's shares fell 6p to 110p after news of the results.

RECENT ISSUES

BRITISH FUNDS

1983/84 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
70	40	New Darien Oil	70	+2	0.4e	0.5	..
40½	23½	N Throg Inc 83	40½	+½	3.1b	7.8	..
29	20	Do Cap	28	+1			..
328	137	New Tokyo	299	+10	..	..	..
274	182	North Atlantic	246	+1	4.3	1.7	..
142	107	Nth Sea Assets	115	-2	4.3	3.7	..
238	178	Northern Amer	221	+3	7.7	3.5	..
163	78	Oil & Associated	153	+8	6.3	4.1	..
38	31	Personal Assets	32	..			..
261	186	Raeburn	246	..	12.0	4.9	..
790	553	Robeco fl5	769	+12	32.8	4.3	..
758	523	Rolinco Subs fl5	730	+13	16.6	2.3	..
47½	41½	Rorento 'NV'	£47	+¼			
206	157	Scot Amer	185	+2	6.9	3.7	..
138	98	Scot Eastern	129	+1	4.8	3.7	..
228	159	Scot Invest	217	+3	6.7	3.1	..
310	202	Scot Mortgage	294	+2	8.9	3.0	..
183	121	Scot National	176	+3	5.6	3.2	..
114	76¾	Scot Northern	110	+2	4.4	4.0	..
448	328	Sec Alliance	418	+3	16.1b	3.8	..
40	30	Stewart Ent	36	+1	0.6b	1.6	..
113½	81	Stockholders	103	+1	2.8	2.7	..
111	58	TR Australia	101	+1	2.6	2.6	..
66	48½	TR C of Ldn Dfd	66	+1	3.9b	5.8	..
132	84	TR Ind & Gen	127	+1	4.5	3.5	..
260	166	TR Natural Res	254	..	10.0	3.9	..
176	116	TR Nth America	142	+4	4.8	3.3	..
247	127	TR Pacific Basin	234	+4	2.9	1.2	..
125	86½	TR Property	116	+1	4.0b	3.4	..
163	116	TR Technology	157	+2	4.7	3.0	..
108	78½	TR Trustees	107	+2	4.7b	4.4	..
246	170	Throg Sec 'Cap'	246	..	8.6b	3.5	..
185	137	Throgmtn Trust	182	+7	9.3	5.1	..
149	111	Trans Oceanic	135	..	4.1	3.0	..
182	117	Tribune Inv	177	..	5.4	3.0	..
75½	66½	Triplevest 'Inc'	73½	..	10.5b	13.9	
515	390	Do Cap	509	+3			
182	129	Utd States Deb	172	-1	9.3b	5.4	..
94	60	Viking Res	92	+2	1.3	1.4	..
70	40	Westpool Inv	70	..	1.8	2.5	..
130	80	Witan Inv	125	..	3.4b	2.7	..

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

PLANTATIONS

MISCELLANEOUS

UNLISTED SECURITIES

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Sterling: Spot and Forward



Money Market Rates

Other Markets

Dollar Spot Rates

Euro-$ Deposits

Gold

هكذا من الأصل

Jeremy Warner examines a fast-moving predator which has stayed the course

How Hanson aims to build on triumph of London Brick

It took nine weeks, three bids and £250m, but in the end Hanson Trust finally won control of London Brick, Britain's largest brick maker, keeping intact Lord Hanson's reputation for always getting what he wants.

In the closing days of the takeover battle, there was more than a suspicion that Hanson might have met its match. Lord Hanson, its chairman, never had any such doubts. "We paid exactly what we expected to. We always knew we could win at this price," he said from the group's unpretentious offices above a branch of the National Westminster Bank in London's Brompton Road.

Yet the whole episode has left the City faintly puzzled. London Brick is undoubtedly a desirable property, but the price Hanson eventually paid was hardly cheap. It is also quite different from Hanson's recent acquisitions, notably Berec and UDS.

Berec, the batteries group, now called Ever Ready again, was arguably fading into oblivion when Hanson stepped in. UDS was a mass of separate retailing companies suffering from a lack of decision making.

Neither of these descriptions fits London Brick. According to Lord Hanson it is "esentially a well run and managed company with a good market." And if its senior directors were a little slow in taking profit-motivated decisions they have been learning fast over the last two years and would certainly have a prosperous independent future before them but for Lord Hanson.

The explanations for Hanson's interest range from the trivial to the Machiavellian. "Some people like fast cars and women. Lord Hanson seems to like bricks," said one stockbroker after Hanson had upped the ante in the takeover battle for the second time – an unprecendented event in the annals of Hanson takeover tactics.

Judging by his playboy reputation during the 1950s, Lord Hanson probably likes all three. Certainly there is no attempt to play down an obvious love for the brick industry. "We are very very pleased with the acquisition," he said. "This is a unique opportunity to put together two aspects of an industry we understand quite well because of our long standing involvement through Butterley Building Materials."

However, there is more to Hanson Trust than Lord Hanson. Personal emotional attachments to particular businesses would surely not be allowed to dictate takeover strategy in a group whose astonishing development through acquisition probably owes as much to Sir Gordon White, controller of the group's extensive American operations, as to the man from whom it takes its name.

It would, for instance be difficult to imagine Hanson ever allowing itself the luxury of the five-year obsession with the House of Fraser stores group that has so consumed Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland's Lonrho.

Hanson's style is essentially conservative. There is no hint of the rebel – an image peversely clung to by Mr Rowland.

The conservative nature of the group provides the clue to the latest takeover. London Brick is basically a solid business. It is typical of the unglamorous industries that have built up today's Hanson Trust.

Hanson might have feared an encroachment on its Butterley business by London Brick's plans to build a fifth force in non fletton bricks.

However, Butterley is only a small part of Hanson and could hardly provide the justification for a £250m takeover. Nor should the idea that Hanson will sell off clay reserves to recoup some of its investment and raise brick prices substantially more than London Brick to improve profits, be taken too seriously.

Ever Ready, and to a lesser extent UDS, have burdened Lord Hanson with the image of an axeman. But Hanson's secret is more simple. It believes in achieving an adequate return on capital. If it cannot, it sells or closes.

Lord Hanson says: "London Brick, of course, cannot be compared with either Ever Ready or UDS when we took them over. It is much more like United Gas Industries when we acquired that company in 1982. It is a reasonably good business on which we hope to improve by providing incentives and goals.

Mr Martin Taylor, another Hanson director, agrees: "There was nothing wrong with the quality of management at Ever Ready when we took them over. There were a lot of good people there that knew decisions had to be made. But somehow nobody was responsible, decisions were not being taken, and as a consequence the company was sliding rapidly into the sea.

"It was easy to identify the problem areas. But we did not do the rationalization. We let Ever Ready do it for themselves. When you tell people what their jobs are and introduce incentives, then they begin to make decisions in an entirely different way. They become motivated to success."

In top management, the performance of the company's share price is carefully monitored. Over the last three years it has risen by 550 per cent, outperforming the rest of the stock market by more than 200 per cent.

The acquisition of London Brick has at last given the company the desired place in the Stock Exchange's old elite, the FT-30 share index, although its growth and size would have justified a place long ago.

The obsession with share price is revealing. The old idea that having to perform for shareholders provides the discipline businesses need to succeed has been developed into a fully fledged philosophy at Hanson.

According to Lord Hanson: "It doesn't matter what you are making. We cannot boast a single glamour business. What matters is how you go about what you are making. Shareholders realize this these days. Our strength and the reason why we are in the FT 30 now is that we are good managers with bold objectives."

Hanson has always given the impression of a company in too much of a hurry. The doubters have waited for it to stumble for years. But after some hard early lessons that may have saved it from the over-confidence of the Slater Walker era, it has barely missed a step. Even its capital structure is geared to maintaining the breakneck pace of earnings growth seen in the past, with more than a third of it in deferred equity – the Hanson convertibles legendary on the Stock Exchange. This provides both incentive and necessity for rapid profits growth in future to avoid earnings dilution.

The company is said to be mean and critics believe that it fails to invest adequately for the future, preferring to rely on acquisitions where easy profits can be made out of selling assets to maintain the pace of its expansion.

Certainly the three to four-year payback period that Hanson expects on all new investment is extremely short by most standards and manpower in the research and development at Ever Ready has been severely cut since Hanson moved in.

But the proof of the pudding is in the long-term figures. While Hanson might run a low-tech and generally unexciting portfolio of products, it has consistently done well out of most of the businesses it has taken on board for the longer term.

It should also do well out of London Brick although it would be foolish to expect the rapid financial return that was achieved with Ever Ready.

From now on Hanson's gaze turns back to the United States which, after the London Brick takeover, is less than half its business once more.

HANSON ACTIVITY PRODUCES RESULTS

SALE

Feb 1984 John Farmer £15.3m

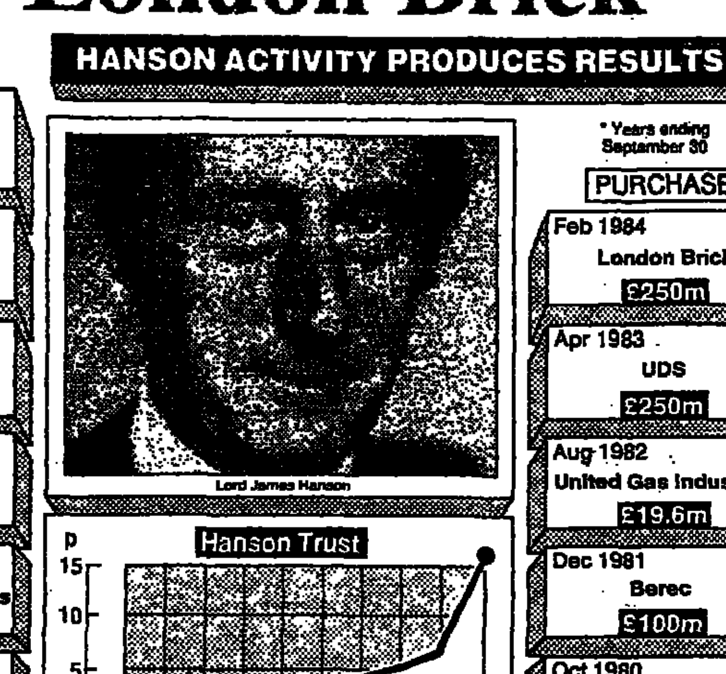
Oct 1983 Richard Shops John Collier £140m

Sep 1983 Orbit £8.1m

Sep 1983 William Timson £40.4m

Dec 1982 Berec Continental operations £37m

Jun 1981 Cement interests in Texas £25m



Lord James Hanson

* Years ending September 30

PURCHASE

Feb 1984 London Brick £250m

Apr 1983 UDS £250m

Aug 1982 United Gas Industries £19.6m

Dec 1981 Berec £100m

Oct 1980 McDonough Company £74m

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	†10¼%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	*9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgage Base Rate

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 5¾%. £10,000 up to £50,000, 6¼%. £50,000 and over, 7¼%

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds

Authorised Unit Trusts

1983/84 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Insurance Bonds and Funds

1983/84 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

How to survive in the future: Page 23

COMPUTER HORIZONS

The revolution in education: Page 23

Satellite TV: has the BBC lost its way?

This week yet another round of discussions will take place between the parties involved in the British direct broadcasting by satellite (DBS) project. But all the partners in the venture – the Government, the BBC and IBA – have lost their way.

First the Government. It has approached satellite television broadcasting from an industrial direction and not a broadcasting one. The original satellite was to have been launched in 1986, be built by a consortium of British Aerospace, Bitish Telecom and GEC-Marconi and carry two DBS channels for the BBC. Last year that project was rejected by the BBC, a decision which shocked and frightened the proponents of the satellite in government. The £350m space venture was to provide a stimulus to the British aerospace and electronics industries.

But *since last year government*, particularly those on the industrial front, have been in blind panic in an attempt to keep the satellite project alive in the face of increasing criticism that the design of the spacecraft is unnecessarily sophisticated and as a consequence too expensive.

The new round of talks between the three parties is the latest attempt to save the project by forming a joint venture which would include the BBC in partnership with the IBA (the authority is to have the power to grant early next year franchise for two DBS channels).

The Government has only itself to blame in its pursuit of a policy which *has not addressed itself to the* real questions about satellite broadcasting. Within a decade there will be a plethora of satellites over Europe whether they be high powered, allowing pictures to be received through an antenna directly at home, or those with lower power which can beam their pictures to cable television operators on the ground who in turn carry them to their subscribers.

Ireland, France and Luxembourg have all been allocated satellite frequencies. Television programmes beamed from their satellites will be able to be received in Britain. These will be high powered DBS satellites which would compete directly with the British BBC/IBA project. The Government has ignored these dangers.

It also seems to believe that there is little need to impose broadcasting standards on the owners of satellite channels. That is ludicrous. It cannot have a rigid code of practice for balance of programming on its terrestrial broadcasting and allow satellite channels to be unbridled.

Last week Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, addressing delegates to a cable and satellite conference sponsored by *The Financial Times* said: "The object of UK Government policy in this field, as indeed it is in many others, is in the simple phrase the creation of opportunity and the removal of obstacles. To open doors, to encourage those with interest and enterprise to go through them and explore, for their benefit and that of others".

The policy is indeed simple to the extent of being niave. The Government cannot stand back and not focus on the correct questions. The policy that is required is a broadcasting one. Let's examine why the BBC is going into satellite.

Alasdair Milne, the Director General of the BBC, addressed the same conference as the Hone Secretary. He claimed that the BBC satellite was necessary as a vehicle for providing more television programming and will be needed as a means of transmission when high resolution television (1125 lines) arrives.

He said: "Eventually, transmission via satellites will become the orthodox method of transmitting broadcasting signals. Quite apart from the question of whether the BBC should offer additional networks or not, it would be a dereliction of broadcasting duty if we did not introduce a technology that bids fair to replace the means we use now."

Neither of these reasons is good enough for the BBC to justify going into DBS now. It should take a different view to satellite than has

THE WEEK

Bill Johnstone

been the case with its terrestrial broadcasts.

The BBC, although it has not fully commercially exploited its programme-making assets to the full, could be a primary source of good programming – drama, light entertainment, current affairs and specially made feature films. There will be a dearth of good quality product for satellite and cable channels in the United Kingdom, the rest of Europe and the *United States*. Even the BBC if it ran its own satellite channel would have to buy much from other sources. So why not reverse the role and become one of the principal sources of television material, some made specifically for cable and satellite?

Alasdair Milne in his speech highlighted the famine of good programming. He said: "During the first six months of last year 196 films were passed by the British Board of Censors for United Kingdom Certificates.

"About half of these films were in the English language. Of all the films passed only 28 per cent (that is 55 films) were awarded either a 'U' or a 'PG' certificate. No fewer than 46 per cent were in the 18 or restricted club 18 category. So it can't be said that there is an abundance of first-run feature films to which, even on a liberal interpretation of ethical and moral values, no severe objection could be made."

The BBC doesn't need to run its own channel to be heavily involved in satellite. The owners of DBS channels and others operating satellite services to cable networks will be desperate for good programming. The BBC could sell to them and not be burdened with marketing of its own channel, the borrowings to finance the project (£170m in capital plus an estimated £180m in operational costs over the seven-year life of the satellite) and having to compete with other satellites and cable networks which could have bought its programming.

But what about its plans for replacing the terrestrial network by a satellite one? The BBC does not need to rush, there will be dozens of *manufacturers and operators of* satellites only too pleased to do business when that day arrives. Also, when the transmissions of the normal BBC television pictures are made by satellite and the terrestrial network is replaced by a spacecraft, the economics of a satellite project will favourably alter. That is the time when the BBC should consider operating its own satellite, not before.

Finally the IBA. The BBC is *now* considering a partnership with the IBA/Independent Television Companies. The proposal being considered by the partners is a four channel joint satellite project. One channel would be dedicated to the BBC, one to the IBA, one would be shared while another would act as a backup in the event of failure.

But why have the Independent television companies been involved in the satellite discussions? The IBA will be empowered under the Cable and Broadcasting Act, presently making its way through Parliament, to award commercial franchises for satellite. Those were *not intended to* be the property of the Independent television companies but were supposed to be placed on open tender. Not only have the companies become involved in the satellite discussions but have brazenly asked for an extension to their terrestrial franchises as their price for partnership.

It is obvious to the proponents of independent broadcasting that the commercial satellite channels should not be controlled by the existing commercial companies. It is not in the interest of broadcasting to have the commercial terrestrial and satellite channels owned by the same groups. Nor is it in the interest of broadcasting to have DBS controlled by the duopoly of the BBC and the existing independent companies. That is the question the IBA must address this week.



Stanley Kanney: 50,000 pictures in one disc

Pick a picture in an instant

Photography as Art may be an unlikely candidate for computerising, but The Image Bank, a worldwide photographic agency has plans in that direction.

With 24 offices it handles an average of six to seven thousand high quality colour transparencies each week, sending many of them from its New York headquarters to its international network of offices where they are in demand by advertising agencies and magazines, writes Geoffrey Ellis.

At present thousands of images are examined with a magnifying glass but soon this could change.

For three years secret research has been going on in New York, led by Stanley Kanney, the co-founder of the company, to enable a comprehensive selection of single images to be stored and accessed on video disc. The special software needed has now been fully developed and the scheme is soon to become operational with up to six video disc players due to be installed in London by the middle of the year.

Each disc will be capable of storing up to 50,000 single colour images, and by using the new software a researcher, by answering a series of involved questions based on the familiar "branch" formula, will be led to what he needs.

The benefits of this operation will be enormous both to The Image Bank, who will be able to provide a more comprehensive catalogue of pictures without proportionate growth of space, and for the client who will be able to lease a player, plus a selection of discs from the library and browse through them while sitting in his own office, calling up to have the required picture delivered.

Will the next step be to increase the sophistication of the system to allow the transfer of material from disc to user in one step? With their dedication to the use of new techniques, it cannot be too long before The Image Bank begins exploring this further innovation.

Why Ben speaks to his computer

By Frank Brown

Ben Smith has been bitten by the computer bug. So much so, he can't stop talking to it, and talking about it. Ben runs his own small real-estate business on the outskirts of San Francisco, and knew little about computers until he bought one just before Christmas to help him and his secretary wife out with his paperwork.

"As we didn't know what was on the market, we decided to go to a computer exhibition to see what was available", he recalls, "and I saw this machine where you simply talked to it, like I'm talking now, and it did what you wanted it to do instantly.

"It has a speech command system which will pick out key words or phrases from continuous speech, and carries out the commands associated with those words," he said. "You can train it to respond to anything you say, and to do any task you want when it hears that word or phrase.

"It's great for dictating letters. I simply say 'I want to write to Mrs D. Jones,' for example, and when it hears 'writes,' it automatically goes into letter writing mode, and when it hears 'Mrs D. Jones,' it instantly displays the letter format with Mrs Jones's address at the top, plus the date, our file reference for Mrs Jones, and 'Dear Mrs Jones' underneath.

"I can then either dictate text, or say words which call up standard paragraphs or complete standard letters, and which again appear on screen instantly – fully personalised where necessary. Thus some letters can be produced and printed literally within seconds.

"It has saved so much time and correspondence and paperwork that my wife Donna now helps me on the selling side of the business," he said.

"It has also saved time and money managing my telephone," he added. "The speech facility has effectively converted the phone into a sophisticated speakerphone. Making a call is simply a matter of talking to the computer – no lifting the receiver and dialling – the computer does it all.

"It stores and retrieves my important numbers just like a memory phone, and not only dials calls, but also automatically recalls busy numbers. It will also place calls at specific times throughout the day, and when there is no one in the office, it will answer and record calls just like an answering machine.

"Not only that, it keeps track of my personal calendar; it stores a year's worth of appointments, and reminds me about them just like a good executive secretary."

The machine that keeps Ben talking is the Texas Instruments Professional personal business computer fitted with the new speech command and telephone management systems. These are printed circuit boards which simply plug into the back of the machine.

The speech command board is now available in Britain, but the telephone management board is currently undergoing Baib approval, and is unlikely to be on the market here before the end of this year.

New speech signal chip

The secret behind these two boards is a new speech signal processing chip developed by TI which incorporates a high-speed 32-bit computer, and speech processing software containing TI developed algorithms that speed up speech-encoding and speech-recognition process.

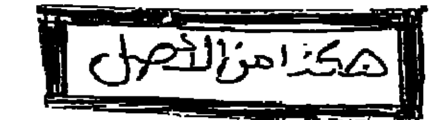
The software's speech-encoding *efficiency is such that the* resultant code is 50 times more compact than conventional methods, and is therefore much faster, the company claims. It also requires considerably less memory space.

Thus the new chip and the software have considerable application potential. The device has already been taken up by other computer firms who are using it to develop speech processing systems of their own.

In addition, engineers at the company's regional technology centre in Bedford are working on a variety of applications in conjunction with a number of industrial companies and manufacturers of consumer products.

Using the new chip, the centre has developed a portable speech analysis system which helps accelerate the development of speech-input and speech-output systems. The portable unit also simplifies the analysis and encoding of noise generated by machinery such as engines and machine tools, thereby enabling the development of noise-monitoring systems that provide an early warning of impending mechanical failure.

The chip itself costs about £60, but will be cheaper by the end of the year, a Texas Instruments spokesman said.



New deal on Cobol opens the market

By Maggie McLening

Two recent master distributorship agreements for Micro Focus's Level II Cobol programming language are likely to bring 16/32-bit microcomputers in out of the cold. These machines, based on Motorola 68000 processor, have so far failed to make a strong impact on the business market, losing out to less-powerful Intel 8088/8086-based micros.

One of the main reasons for this has been a lack of commercial applications, but co-operative development contracts between Micro Focus and software houses Logica and Root Computers should correct this by making it easier to transfer Cobol systems on other computers to Unix, the most popular 68000 operating system.

Unix, despite being a portable operating system, does not come in a standard version because every purchaser of a licence from AT&T has to adapt the source code to his own requirements, in addition to porting it to different hardware.

Although Micro Focus has tried to produce Level II Cobol products for Unix-based systems as quickly as possible, progress has been slow because each implementation takes about three months to complete.

Since the Level II compiler is certified as being the Ansi 74 standard in use on most mainframes, the 5,500 programs required to test it have to be downloaded on to each target machine, involving the transfer of around 225,000 lines of coding each time.

The agreements with Logica and Root Computers are designed to spread the burden of implementation and thereby speed up the process, with Micro Focus supplying each company with unlinked modules of compiled code, from which a target system can be generated for different machines.

Any licensing delays should also be eliminated, because both Logica and Root are authorised to sign up subsidiary distributors, including hardware manufacturers. This effectively brings Level II Cobol within the immediate reach of more than 70 manufacturers of Unix-based machines worldwide because the two companies supply the most widely used versions of Unix: Xenix and Uniplus+.

"Everything that has been used elsewhere – either moving up from micros or down from large machines – will help sell more Unix machines. Level II will make this happen quicker and open the market up another crack," said Henry Goldstein, product marketing manager at Logica.

Logica is a second-source supplier of Microsoft's Xenix and has ported the product on to IMP, Plessey and Tycom micros, with five more contracts under way, since taking it on a year ago. Root Computers supplies the Uniplus+ version of Unix written by Unisoft in the US, which is running on 60 different types of hardware worldwide: those ported by Root include Bleasdale, Cifer, Plessey and Torch.

'Two out of five micro suppliers could collapse'

Plenty of shocks on the way but opportunities too

Graham Searjeant looks at a controversial report on the future of Britain's micro business

The micro computer business is one of the hardest of all to forecast. Rapid growth is going hand in hand with leap-frogging technical innovation, increasing sophistication among users educated by experience, harsh price competition, changing and unsettled distribution methods and upsets like the entry of International Business machines, reckoned to have the resources to produce two million personal computers a year, several times the total world market at the start of the decade.

Hence the industry is strewn with multi-millionaires like the men of Apple on one side, failures and rescues on the other and, in between, companies like Warner Communications' Atari subsidiary, registering a $500m loss but soldiering on in the hope that others will drop out first and the market will sort itself out.

No wonder there is a more steady, but perhaps equally fast-burgeoning market for guidance on how to survive and profit from the future, for companies making hardware, software, acting as suppliers or offering service.

A new report on the development of the micro business in Britain from now until 1988 from Technology Intelligence* suggests that there will be plenty more shocks but also plenty of opportunities for the canny.

There will have to be a dramatic shakeout among both manufacturers and suppliers, according to Technology Intelligence. They expect two out of every five suppliers to go out of the business in the next five years and the death rate among new companies will be even more drastic than for industry and commerce as a whole. A third of all new companies trading in the micro computer business will not survive two years.

To some extent this reflects the same factors that determined the evolution of the calculator business, leaving a handful of companies in control of the lion's share of the world market. Whatever manufacturers like Atari may hope, price remains the single most important factor in the choice of machines by existing users. Most distributors expect prices to fall more than 10 per cent this year.

Only world companies can achieve the economies of sale needed to profit in this price-conscious environment and at the same time fund and keep up with the rapid changes both of technique and market needs.

But the mini/micro computer packet is of a wholly different order of complexity from pocket calculators. And some of these multi-layered complexities also point in the direction of fewer suppliers.

For instance, the report suggests that following the launch of the Sinclair QL computer, and the hefty investment by users in more sophisticated software, there could be a leap from 8 bit micro-computer technology straight to a new 32 bit generation, leaving the expected 16 bit intermediate stage stranded.

The pace of technology change is so fast that the life of most central processor models is short. You will have to be big to sell enough to recoup research and manufacturing costs before obsolescence spoils it all.

Technology Intelligence has identified some 44 models selling at less than £500, another 27 selling between £500 and £1,500 fully 100 in the £1,500 to £3,500 range and a further 30 at the top end of the market. It expects no fewer than seven out of every 10 of all these existing micros to be out of production by 1986.

In any case, as people become more educated in the use of computers after their early, often frustrating learning curves, they are changing the way they go about computer purchase. Instead of starting off with a suitably-sized central processor, then tacking on the pieces and building up software to fit, they are beginning to reverse this order of priorities.

Existing users now tend to start with their software needs, find out what is available, what is compatible with what and then but the computer that fits. After price, the availability of computer software and compatibility are the most important tests applied when buying a micro-computer, whether for home, personal or business use.

Users expect to see the most rapid changes in software over the next five years and are particularly keen to improve the storage of data.

Again this points to a shakeout among manufacturers and models as processing units follow chips and calculators in the direction of becoming more homogeneous, almost commodity items.

Perhaps the most perplexing issue in the whole market is exactly how micro-computers will be sold. Sinclair has pioneered mail order for its best-selling ZX basic home computer; Boots and W. H. Smith alone have claimed 25 per cent of the UK home micro market by selling in the High Street. But how far will this extend to the more sophisticated business micro, which is predominantly sold direct by salesmen or through the dealer's salesmen?

Does the Sinclair QL point the way to a more basic kind of selling for business computers?

Tandy has developed a worldwide chain of 5,600 stores selling their micro-computers, but the Xerox shop has met resistance, perhaps partly due to confusion with the company's copier business. It remains unclear whether the professional or consumer type of selling wil advance but, whichever, advertising and promotion is certain to grow, both for soft and hardware. Oric, recently taken over by Edenspring, planned to spend £1m promoting its home computer.

Whatever the pattern of development, Technology Intelligence has no doubt that growth will continue to be extremely rapid in virtually all aspects of the micro-computer business. Homes in Britain are already more firmly hooked on computers than in any other country and people will spend money developing their systems.

According to research, only one in six major UK companies have any form of complete electronic office system, but 72 per cent plan to install one within five years.

The report predicts unit sales of micros will multiply around six times over 1983 levels by 1988, though sales may grow at a slightly more modest pace in the crowded £1,500 to £3,500 range and fastest at the top end of the market.

Even with a high casualty rate, there will be plenty of scope for new business. The report suggests that Sinclair's modest after-sales service may leave a slot for a "business Sinclair user clinic" and if the Sinclair approach spreads, so their could be niches for the smaller firm. There should also be plenty of scope in specialist micro applications from airline flightplans to art galleries, recruitment to restaurants and schools to shoe shops.

It may be a jungle, but it is going to remain a jungle full of opportunity.

★ *The Micro Business: an examination of the UK home, personal and small business computer market 1984-88. To be published on March 12 by Technology Intelligence Limited, 24-30 Great Titchfield Street, London, W1P 7AD at £55.*

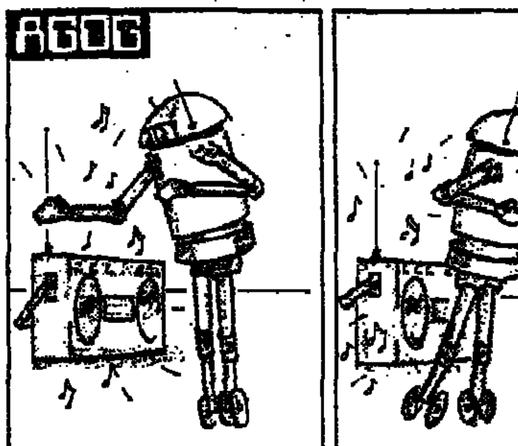
The trouble shooters

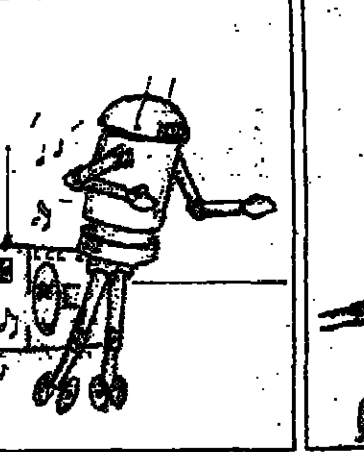
A new computer trouble shooter company was launched last week to exploit and plug the gap in the UK industry. With Sir Monty Finniston as chairman, Future Technology Systems based in Beith, Ayrshire, is out to provide a "missing" service in the multi-million pound computer sales boom, writes Alan Lewis.

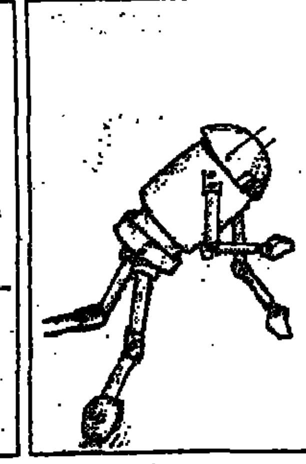
The new company will design and develop products as well as providing servicing for the computer industry.

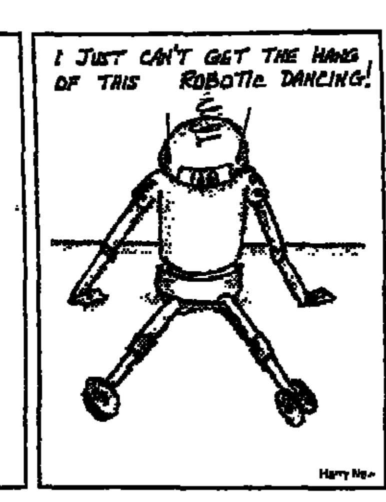
David Shear, Future's managing director, says there are opportunities around the world for his company. With an order book of £12m and projects commissioned by British Telecom, Ferranti and the Department of Industry, Future is looking forward to a successful period.

AGOG









A revolution in education?

Rex Malik continues his study of changes in a computer society

Relevance in education, useable skills, objective skills assessment, these are the bits of Sir Keith Joseph's programme for reform of the schools education system which at first sight seem obviously attractive, and which have attracted the plaudits, at least outside the teaching unions.

And so are the parts of the programme to ensure that those supposedly teaching the children are capable of reforming it, even if most are usually too tactful to say that many of the deficiencies within the educational system arise not from the practices of civil servants and the limitations imposed by politicians, but from the attitude of mind displayed within the educational profession and its unions.

But has Sir Keith not simply done his sums right, but done the right sums? That is much more open to argument. For what after all is the purpose of education? For the great majority, the aim of the exercise seems to be to create a background of skill more attuned to the reality of life outside the confines of the school system. This presumes two things: one that we know how this is likely to develop and two that teachers themselves have sufficient experience of life outside the school system.

One has to ask whether allowing a situation to exist in which a child goes to school, then to university, then to teacher's training college, and back to school until retirement – the career pattern of a substantial number of teachers – should be allowed to mould those being educated for life in all but the most stable and unchanging of societies.

You may well ask what my diving into the educational debate has to do with the impact of computing on society? On examination, one turns out to be deeply immersed in and interwoven with the other. Sir Keith's talk of relevant education is not new, he has not made a new discovery. Relevant education was why we had a mass education system in the first place.

It was a product of the industrial revolution to produce people with enough simple skills to operate the new economy. And it worked for one reason. The young might not have liked it, but parents understood that it did roughly what it set out to do: to give basic broad skills on which specialisation could then be built, even if that was done within the economy by the process of watching Nelly.

Much of that methodology, if one can call it that, is rapidly disappearing, and in large part because Nelly is like the National Union of Teachers. The pace of technology change is rapid, Nelly cannot keep up, does not know, and so cannot teach.

The skills that Nelly had as little as ten to twenty years ago lasted her working life, and could be honed and built on. Today, these are likely to be transformed at least once within that working lifetime, if they have not been so already, and perhaps even more.

I write at least once because the process of digitisation of whatever it may be leads to a change in approach, in thinking. It is a one time major step and quite radical though it does not follow that it is the only change that can be foreseen. For instance, The techniques invented by Douglas Engelbart at SRI in California in the 1960s, the ability to shuffle disparate data on one screen (so well brought out in some of the Xerox work and in such systems as Apple's Macintosh) are not just replications of shuffling papers around on a desk: the people processes involved seem to call on psychological traits which an education system devised to handle serialism often seems to try its hardest to overcome and put down.

Yet those basic techniques may well be critical in the ability of the race to handle complexity. I am groping here, for if this thought has been previously expressed anywhere, I have been unable to find it in the literature.

The point is this: we are constantly putting up the complexity threshold in the economy; the need for people to be able to handle quite complicated ideas that are themselves amalgams of knowlege coming from many disciplines and skills. This is not simply what management is about, it is what service/product development and production are increasingly about in a machine-based economy. These run counter to skill learning routines of the past with their heavy emphasis on ABC, 124 and learning by rote.

One is adding rather than taking away: some learning by rote will still be essential. The literature does indicate that there is an irreducible minimum to achieve fixity, knocking it into heads so that it stays there and becomes automatic (though all the authorities of course differ on what that irreducible minimum is).

De Bono, Busan and the rest of the "thinking should be taught" advocates are right to preach that we should make better use of the raw mechanics we carry on our shoulders. The absence of that as a subject for everybody is indeed quite striking. After all, almost any good driving school will as a matter of course teach the basics of car engineering.

Of course, we teach thinking already, but historically we do it via subject matter, we teach more of it the farther up the educational ladder you climb. It is after all, what the Oxbridge tutorial system is about.

Is there a part that computering can play in all this? Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Information Technology, is fond of pointing out the great successes that the ITEC's have been with those who have failed, or have been failed by the education system how they teach skills in short supply, and what is more teach skills that the education system would have you believe you need to have a successful school career to be able to go on and obtain.

Yet to get into these very same ITEC's need the absence of a successful school career. Mr Baker, whatever he may think privately, avoids saying in public that the ITEC's are a fundamental criticism of the education system.

Meanwhile, Sir Keith and Kenneth Baker are swamping schools with computers. They have done the right thing, even if not necessarily for all the right reasons. The education establishment initially saw computing as being about mathematics. It is that only in part, and arguably a minor part

What computing is about in education is to put teachers where they should long have been – on the firing line. It is going to take away much of the information transfer function, and make them concentrate more on those fuzzy human attributes and rites of passage, the socializing of the little brutes, their policing, and their succour and support as they go through society's initiation rites.

Of course many teachers, and the hierarchy that supports them, are not going to like this at all. The counter attack was well caught recently by Michael Crichton in *Electronic Life*.

"One of the delights of any new technology is that it is for a while free. Government hasn't figured out how to regulate it businessmen haven't figured out how to teach it into tedium . . . . Personal computers are only about six years old and already the rule makers and dogmatists are out in force They are shocked by these goings on. Look, do you mean to say that a person can buy a machine, take it home, teach himself programming, and then use the computer however he pleases? Without first of all being told the proper way? Without paying attention to the rules? Everybody doing what he wants? That's anarchy! It can't be allowed to continue!

"Personally I hope that for once in the twentieth century, a new technology will stay free. Because the rule makers always manage to kill the essence while tidying up the details. Dogma replaces direct experience, and ritual becomes reality."

"Right now, we are at the edge of a new era of unlimited potential. Nobody can see what is going to happen; nobody knows. There are no experts and there's no reason slavishly to follow anybody's instruction about anything."

"Including mine."

And including mine.

Computer Appointments

Another price cut coming

■ One of the first IBM Personal Computer "lookalikes", The British-made CAL-PC, has been so successful that its price has been cut by more than 25 per cent. Launched by Computer Ancillaries last year at £1995, the CAL-PC is now down to £1495. With a simple daisywheel printer, a basic system would come out at about £1900.

"The price reductions have become possible through the increasing volume of sales we have achieved," says Ian Skinner, CAL chairman. Another factor has been the operating economies which have been obtained since CAL was incorporated last December into the CPU Computer group. The company now works closely with LSI Computers, which introduced its Octopus personal computer last autumn.

More than 2000 CAL-PCs have been sold, with some major names among the buyers, including the Manpower Services Commission, the City of Birmingham (the UK's second largest local authority), Glynwed and British Aerospace.

The CAL-PC has both 8-bit and 16-bit processors. There are versions with 5 Mbyte and 10 Mbyte storage, and built-in Winchester disks up to 20 Mbyte are optional. There are also multi-user versions, and the machine has a fast networking facility.

■ As an aid to increased productivity and profits, management consultants Deloitte Haskins & Sells have just released a new system, CostPlan. Running on a standard IBM PC, it was originally developed for an industrial client in the textile industry. CostPlan claims to calculate costs by using a "bill of resources" in which materials, labour costs and energy requirements are imputted and then project how changes in any of these fields can effect costs and profits.

■ The first permanent computer application showroom dedicated to a single industry opens in London tomorrow. Aimed at the construction industry, Britain's largest single industrial market, the new Building Computer Centre, is sited in the Building Centre, off Tottenham Court Road, London.

It will provide a showcase for the best in hardware, peripherals and software applications, with demonstrations running on many popular business machines.

About 200,000 people visit the Building Centre each year as an information centre, and this new venture will provide a welcome addition to the amount of information available to the trade.

COMPUTER BRIEFING

■ An invasion of top quality American software will be launched on the UK Market next month when a new label, US Gold, makes its debut. Centre Soft one of this country's leading distributors, through a complex series of licensing deals have reached agreement with some of the top US producers, allowing them to sell the games, mainly for the Commodore 64, at under £10, almost one third of the price now being charged for imports. Beach Head, a game utilising the full potential of the 64, one of the hits at the recent LET trade show, is amongst the first to be released.

■ A major Software forum, organized by Digital Research, takes place in London this Thursday. It will discuss latest developments in this field, and look at networking, windowing, Concurrent CP/M and issues of compatibility.

■ Development of electronics will be a priority for China over the next 20 years, according to the minister responsible for that industry.

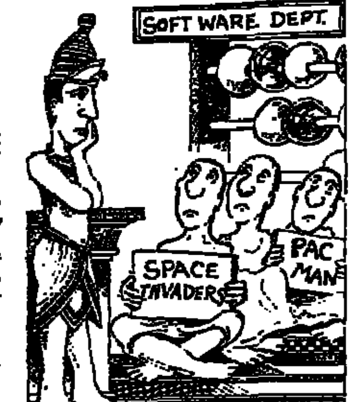
Jiang Zemin told the English-Language newspaper *China Daily* that both Shanghai in the Yangtse delta and the southern province of Guangdong had decided to make electronics a focal point of their economies. The minister added that value of electronics production in China rose by 27 per cent last year.

■ A low-cost communications package which can turn a personal computer into an intelligent workstation is now being marketed by CompuShack Ltd. The London-based firm has reached an agreement with Sobreck Corporation of New Orleans to handle the package, which is for use on the IBM PC and IBM-compatible personal computers.

CompuShack has adopted the package primarily for the Tava PC, for which the company is exclusive distributor in Europe. Known as "TCP" – Tava Communications Package – the new product will give PCs access to such communications applications as electronic mail, telex, on-line data base, micro-to-host and micro-to-micro transfers.

The cost is far lower than most other systems on the market. For £2,595 the buyer can have the TCP package with a DaCom Buzzbox modem, a 128K Tava PC, two floppy disk drives, a monitor, printer, and CP/M 86 operating system. TCP on its own, with the modem, costs £209.

■ The first silicon chip with rectifier diodes produced entirely on the basis of Brazilian technology has just been put on the market. It has been designed for use in battery chargers, welding machines, direct current sources and in cases of electric traction problems.



In a second stage of the operation, the manufacturer, Aegis Tecnologia em Dispositovos Semiconductores of Sao Paulo will produce high-frequency diodes and a multiple-usage chip for the current inflow of keyed computer systems.

The major technical difficulty, the control of the ideal thermal point of diffusion on layers of pure silicon, has been overcome. This is now done at temperatures of up to 1,400°C but previously had only been achieved in Brazil in specialized laboratories.

What was lacking was the technology needed to do this on a commercial scale. Previously, the only company to do this was Semikron Sudamericana Comercio e Industria de Semiconductores which used technology imported from its German parent. Aegis says it has invested almost £1m to start production of the new chip industrially.

Contributors: Geoffrey Ellis, Roger Woolnough and Mark Stone.

UK events

OEM Only Conference, Hilton Hotel, London W1, March 7

Computer Trade Show, Wembley Conference Centre, Middlesex, March 13-15

Scottish Computer Show and Conference, Holiday Inn, Glasgow, March 13-15

Microcomputer Applications Workshop, Computer Laboratory, Liverpool University, March 26,27

Microcomputer Networks Workshop, Computer Laboratory, March 27, 28

Electron & BBC Micro User Show, New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, London, March 29–April 3-5

Artificial Intelligence Seminar, City University, London, April 7-8

Sir Fredrick Osborn School Computer Fair, Sir Frederick Osborn School, Welwyn Garden City, April 8

COMPEC WALES, Cardiff University, April 10-12

Computers for Builders Exhibition, Cavendish Conference Centre, 82 New Cavendish Street, London W1, April 12

Computers in Instrumentation Exhibition, Earls Court, April 16-18

Overseas

Personal Computer Show, Sydney, Australia, March 14-17

International Business Equipment & Computer Show, Singapore, March 13-17

Videotex '84, Hyatt Regency, Chicago, April 16-18

Compiled by Personal Computer News

Watch out for the friendly icon

By David Hewson

If I were asked for one word to engrave upon the mind of the home computer user during 1984, it would be this: icon. Look it up in Collins and, in the third sentence, you will read "a symbol resembling or analogous to the thing it represents," and I can think of no better explanation.

The icon is, on one level, a tool of incomparable ease for the fledgling computer user, and, on another, an interesting parable about the direction the chip business may take in the future. If you want to see it in action, simply search out the nearest Lisa, Apple's expensive wonder machine, and you will know what I mean. The icon is meant to be the ultimate step in what the computer manufacturers term "user friendliness" – a euphemism which may be accurately translated as the ability to be used by people who haven't the faintest clue of what a computer is about.

In the beginning, to print an item written on a screen one had to add a set of instructions. Later, one pressed a button marked "print." With an icon, one simply selects the option which bears a visul representation of a printer. Put flatly, like that, it may sound a little academic, but in reality the difference is startling.

Working on a screen may mimic working on a piece of paper, but in fact the process is quite different. A computer system which can present all those difficult options available to the user in a visual form as instant as the system itself can only bring in countless new recruits to the computing world."

So what happens with an icon system? Well, instead of asking the conventional questions, such as do you want to pull out an item on disk, look at the directory, print, or save something you have written, you are faced with a series of familiar pictures – a typewriter, a filing cabinet, a printer, or an index - which short circuit the thought process.

To save a file, or read one which already exists, one chooses the option marked with a filing cabinet. By relating the computer's operations to images for everyday objects, the strangeness of working on an electronic machine is virtually eliminated.

The joys of icons are known only to those who have used them, and, oddly enough, they bear little relation to the power of the machine running the relevant programmes.

For example, the Commodore 64 is noticably short of a filing program in the lower end of the software market which uses anything but a bare screen for its format. Atari, on the other hand, has a very neat filing program which mimics the appearance of the filing cabinet, and that manages to run on a 16K machine, which, on paper at least, carries a quarter of the memory of the Commodore.

This brings me to the most important point about icon, which, I have to say, is not the ease of use which they undoubtedly bring to computer users.

No, icons are important, not in themselves, but because they represent an investment on the part of computer manufacturers in comprehension at the expense of plain storage power. They are, if you like, one of the first steps down the road towards selling computers to people who do not give a damn how the system works so long as it does

This year will see the memories of home computers shoot way beyond the 64K mark, and there is a rather gullible gut feeling in some quarters that memory size is a I. It isn't, as Atari's superior filing software proves. The shrewdly written software of a 16K machine may be infinitely superior to a clumsily produced 64K equivalent even if the latter has the ability, once programmed, to handle a greater number of files.

When one looks, for instance, at the vast memory promised for the new Sinclair QL, one can only ask: why? And the answer must be, not simply to make the machine capable of storing more information. There are plenty of machines capable of that already around, albeit at heftier prices than Sinclair's.

In reality, a colossal amount of extra memory is pretty useless to the average user unless it makes the task in hand easier. And that is why I believe we have only seen the beginnings of the icon.

Make no mistake: for the average computer manufacturer, that requires a sea change in his business philosophy if he is to sell to the new generation of computer users. The day of machines which respond to commands in plain English and require little or nothing in the way of specialist knowledge may not be at hand yet, but the arrival of the icon is, at the very least, a good few steps in that admirable direction.

People/John Angel of Percom



John Angel: blue-chip names

Ending a clerical chore

By Roger Woolnough

When he invested in one of the earliest BBC microcomputers to use as a hobby, John Angel had no idea it would launch him into a new business.

A solicitor who specializes in industrial relations, Angel was well aware that personnel departments needed help, and had thought that computers might provide it. But the power of the micro was a revelation.

Generally personnel departments have a low priority in organizations, he explains. "I saw that the micro could provide a computerized personnel system which the department could afford."

This was early in 1982, and Angel realised that an opportunity to start computerizing the personnel function was fast approaching. In April 1983 new legislation was to come in on statutory sick pay, and companies would be looking for ways to administer it.

With no time to waste he contacted a friend, Richard Coon, a chartered accountant who had been UK financial controller of Rank Xerox. The timing was right: as part of a cost-cutting exercise, Rank Xerox was encouraging managers to set up their own businesses in return for consultancy work two days a week.

Coon joined forces with Angel and also involved Geoff Lancashire, who had been information services manager at Rank Xerox. In June 1982 the three men formed Percom Ltd, to develop and market personnel management systems for microcomputers.

"I had no computer knowledge other than playing around with the BBC micro", Angel admits. He specified the product, and Lancashire organized the programming. Percom was able to demonstrate its statutory sick pay and absence control system in November 1982 – the first company to do so, Angel believes.

Since then it has made its mark. Blue-chip names using the software include BP Chemicals, Electrolux, Merrill Lynch, and Saatchi & Saatchi.

To John Angel, this is just the start. With backing from the British Technology Group, Percom is broadening its range with a modular system for personnel management. This will build on personnel records to computerize such areas as recruitment and selection, manpower planning, occupational health, and salary modelling.

"The personnel function is inefficient because it is a clerical-intensive activity", Angel says. "Personnel departments spend all their time trying to keep up with legislation. The only other thing they have time for is 'firefighting'."

But by providing computer programs to do much of the manual work, personnel staff will be able to tackle the real problems. "For the first time", Angel believes, "personnel managers can see themselves managing their functions, because they will have all the data on hand."

As a specialist in industrial relations law who has acted for both sides, John Angel believes the computer can have far-reaching effects. The better informed the personnel department is, the better it will be for industrial relations.

"I don't think Percom alone will do that", he said, "but we are providing a system which is within the budget of a personnel department. There is no excuse not to computerize."

THE TIMES NATIONAL MICROCOMPUTER CHALLENGE

There has been a heavy response to our National Microcomputer Challenge competition, and as the regional judges set about naming regional winners, some interesting points have emerged.

Applications ranged from the totally predictable, through to entirely new concepts of using the micro. They touched on subjects as diverse as medicine, social and welfare, commerce, education, transport, domestic and leisure.

There appeared to be a comprehensive spread of ages, with 10-year-olds jostling for consideration alongside those of 70-plus. At this stage a high proportion of entrants appear to be male.

The regional judges start work this week and hope to complete in time to allow us to announce the 10 winners in the first section in *The Times* of Tuesday, March 20.

The British Computer Society have announced their regional representatives on the judging panel, they are: Representative: Mr G. McDermid, Mr J. K. Nix, Mr S Burness, Dr Yannakoudakis, Mr K. J. Bowcock, Mr E. Stuart, Dr P. J. Marcer, Mr P. H. Mabey, Dr L. R. Neal, Mr T. Vickers. Region: Scotland, Northern Ireland and North West, North East, Yorks and Humberside, Midlands, Wales, South West, Home Counties North, Home Counties South, Greater London.

London fair

Early plans announced by the London Festival of Computing organizers show that a wide range of interests are to be catered for this year in the festival sponsored by Prism Technology.

The aim of the festival is to promote awareness amongst Londoners in the use of computers in the community.

The Computer Fair, at Central Hall, Westminster, will be the highlight of the festival, and the winner of *The Times* Computer Challenge will be announced to coincide with the festival which runs from April 4 until April 23.

Law Report March 6 1984 House of Lords

Consent crucial issue in sentence

Regina v Courtie

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Scarman, Lord Roskill and Lord Bridge of Harwich

[Speeches delivered March 1]

Section 12(1) of the Sexual Offences Act 1956, by reason of the provisions of sections 1 and 3 of the Sexual Offences Act 1967 contained more than one offence of buggery. Consequently the House of Lords unanimously allowed the appeal against sentence of a man imprisoned on the basis of an offence carrying a maximum term of 10 years who should have been sentenced on the basis of an offence with a five-year maximum sentence.

The appeal was brought by Thomas Courtie, aged 38, against the dismissal by the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Watkins, Mrs Justice Heilbron and Sir John Thompson) of his appeal from a three-year sentence passed at York Crown Court (Judge Bennett, QC) on his plea of guilty to a count which charged that he committed buggery with a male person aged 19.

The trial judge, who had refused an application by the prosecution after plea to add a count charging absence of consent by the other man, decided that he and the two justices sitting with him would determine, as they did, whether or not the offence was committed with consent, and then passed sentence on the basis of absence of consent.

Section 12(1) of the 1956 Act provides: "It is felony for a person to commit buggery with another person or with an animal".

Section 1(6) of the 1967 Act provides: "... when in any proceedings it is charged that a homosexual act is an offence the prosecutor shall have the burden of proving that the act was done otherwise than ... with the consent of the parties ...".

Section 3(1), which amends the 1956 Act provisions as to punishment, provides: "The maximum punishment ... for buggery with another man over the age of 16 shall ... be (a) imprisonment for ... 10 years except where the other man consented thereto; and (b) for ... five years if the accused is ... over the age of 21 and the other man is under that age, but otherwise two years ....".

Mr Barry Mortimer, QC and Mr D P Hunt for the appellant; Mr Harry Ognall, QC and Mr R C Andrews for the Crown.

LORD DIPLOCK, with whose speech Lord Fraser, Lord Scarman, Lord Roskill and Lord Bridge agreed, said that the appeal raised two questions involving basic principles of English criminal law.

To the substantive principle was applied the metaphor in *Woolmington v Director of Public Prosecutions* ([1935] AC 462) "the one golden thread that is always to be seen throughout the web of English criminal law", that an accused person could not be convicted of an offence with which he was charged unless it had been established by the prosecution that each one of the *factual ingredients*, which were included in the legal definition of that specific offence, was present in the case that had been brought against him by the prosecution.

In the absence of an informed and unequivocal plea of guilty, the prosecution, if it was to obtain a conviction for the specific offence charged, had to prove to the satisfaction (beyond reasonable doubt) of the person or persons in whom was vested the function of trying facts, that each and every factual ingredient of that offence existed in the case of the accused.

The factual ingredients of every criminal offence consisted of the conduct of the accused and his state of mind at the time of that conduct – expressions used in preference to *actus reus* and *mens rea* in view of *R v Miller* ([1983] 2 AC 161, 174).

If there had not been an informed and unequivocal plea of guilty, the question whether any particular factual ingredient of the specific offence charged (or of any lesser offence of which he might be convicted on that indictment) was present in the case against an accused person, fell to be determined by those persons, and by those persons alone, in whom, under English criminal procedure, there was vested the function of finding whether or not the factual ingredients necessary to constitute the offence had been proved to their satisfaction – in the instant case the jury.

What evidence was admissible was a question of law for the judge to the exclusion of the jury.

The statement of offence in the case referred only to section 12 (1) of the 1956 Act and the particulars of offence stated the date on which the appellant committed buggery with a named man, a male person under the age of 21 years, namely, the age of 19 years. To that offence he had pleaded guilty.

The effect of section 1 (1), (2), (6), (7) and section 3 (1), (3), (4) of the 1967 Act on section 12(1) of the 1956 Act was that the 1967 Act created a number of specific offences for which the maximum punishment prescribed varied on a descending scale from imprisonment for life, through imprisonment for 10 years, imprisonment for five years down to imprisonment for two years according to the existence or absence of particular factual ingredients.

Thus, buggery with a boy under the age of 16 was a life offence, whether committed in private or public and with or without the boy's consent. Buggery with a man 16 years or over without his consent was a 10-year offence whether committed in private or in public; but it became a five-year offence if the accused was an adult and the other party was 16 to 20 years old and consented to the act.

If the accused himself was not yet an adult the offence with a consenting 16-to-20 year old was reduced to a two-year offence. Buggery committed otherwise than in private between adults both of whom consented to it was a two year offence on the part of each of them.

Where a statute provided that an accused person's liability to have inflicted on him a maximum punishment which, if the prosecution succeeded in establishing the existence in the case of a particular factual ingredient, was greater than the maximum punishment that could be inflicted on him if the existence of that particular factual ingredient was not established, Parliament had thereby created two distinct offences, whether the statute by which they were created did so by using language which treated them as being different species of a single genus of offence, or by using language which treated them as separate offences unrelated to one another.

The draftsmen of sections 1 and 3 of the 1967 Act had adopted the former method.

In the particulars of offence in the instant case there was no allegation that the other man did not consent; so the only factual ingredients of the offence that the appellant was charged with having committed were the ingredients necessary for a five-year offence.

There was no mention of the additional factual ingredient, absence of consent by the other man, which it would have been necessary for the prosecution to establish in order to convert the five-year offence into the 10-year offence.

It followed that the only offence that the prosecution established by the appellant's plea of guilty was that he committed a five-year offence. Since the sentence passed on him by the judge was three years and thus within the five-year maximum, the appeal would never have come to the House had it not been for the way in which the case was dealt with by the judge after plea.

In taking upon himself (and the two justices) the function of deciding that there existed in the case against the appellant a necessary factual ingredient of the 10-year offence for which he had been sentenced, although he had never admitted the existence of that factual ingredient by his plea of guilty on arraignment to a lesser five-year offence which did not require the existence of that factual ingredient, the judge was acting contrary to the basic principle of English criminal law – that for the jury alone were the facts.

The certified question was whether section 12(1) of the 1956 Act, by reason of the provisions of section 3(1) of the 1967 Act, contained more than one offence.

To that question his Lordship would give the answer "Yes", although he would substitute for the reference to section 3(1), a reference to sections 1 and 3.

It followed that, having been sentenced on the basis that he had committed a 10-year offence, whereas he should have been sentenced for a five-year offence only, the appeal against sentence had to be allowed. A sentence would be substituted that would result in his period of parole, on which he had been released, being terminated forthwith together with any liability to be recalled to imprisonment.

Solicitors: Lee, Bolton & Lee, for Max Gold & Co, Hull; Sharpe, Pritchard & Co for Mr Leslie M. Bell, Hull.

Enforcing foreign arbitration award

Minister of Public Works of the Government of the State of Kuwait v Sir Frederick Snow & Partners

Before Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Templeman

[Speeches delivered March 1]

A foreign arbitral award qualified as a "convention award" for the purposes of the Arbitration Act 1975 if the state in which it was made had become a party to the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards by the date on which proceedings to enforce the award were begun, even though it was not such a party at the date when the award was made.

The House of Lords so held, dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Sir Frederick Snow & Partners from a judgment dated March 17, 1983 of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Stephenson, Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Kerr) (*The Times* March 18, 1983; [1983] 1 WLR 818), allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, the Minister of Public Works of the Government of the State of Kuwait from a decision of Mr Justice Mocatta ([1981] 1 Lloyd's Rep 656) given on February 19, 1981.

Section 7 of the Arbitration Act 1975 provides: "(1) In this Act ... 'convention award' means an award made in pursuance of an arbitration agreement in the territory of a state, other than the United Kingdom, which is a party to the New York Convention; ..."

Mr Desmond Wright, QC and Mr Nicholas Dennys for the defendants; Mr Bernard Rix, QC and Mr John Tracy Kelly for the plaintiffs.

LORD BRANDON said that the award in regard to which the appeal arose was made by a Kuwaiti arbitrator in Kuwait on September 15, 1973 in respect of disputes arising out of a contract made in 1958 and relating to the construction of an international airport in Kuwait.

The parties to the contract were the Government of Kuwait and a British firm of civil engineering consultants. The award required the payment by the defendants to the plaintiff of a sum which, with interest up to 1979 only, amounted to well over £3.5m.

Proceedings to enforce the award in England were begun on March 23, 1979, and it was in those proceedings that the point of construction arose.

The 1975 Act was passed to give effect to the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards. That convention came into being on June 10, 1958.

On December 23, 1975 the United Kingdom became a party to that convention, and the 1975 Act was brought into force.

On July [illegible] Kuwait became a party to the convention, and on April 12, 1979 an Order in Council declaring that Kuwait, together with a large number of other states, was a party to the convention, came into operation.

Therefore, when the award was made in 1973 Kuwait had not yet become a party to the convention, but by March 1979, when the proceedings to enforce the award were begun, Kuwait had done so.

The case for the defendants was that a foreign arbitral award could only qualify as a convention award for the purposes of the 1975 Act if the state in which it was made was already a party to the convention at the date of the award.

Accordingly, the award was not a convention award and could not be enforced by the plaintiff against the defendants under the Act.

The case for the plaintiff was that it was sufficient if the state in which is was made had become a party to the convention by the date when proceedings to enforce the award were begun. Accordingly, the award was a convention award for the purposes of the 1975 Act and was enforceable under it.

Which of those cases should prevail depended upon the true construction of the relevant provisions of the Act.

The dispute was concentrated on the definition of the expression "convention award" contained in section 7(1) of the Act. Since the award plainly came within the first part of the definition, the dispute was narrowed down further to the meaning to be given to the last part of the definition, namely, "which is a party to the New York Convention".

For the defendants it was contended that that phrase, although it used the present tense in the word "is", related back to the time when the award was made. The plaintiff contended that the word "is" plainly referred to the time of enforcement.

When the definition of "convention award" in section 7(1) was transposed bodily into sections 2 and 3 of the 1975 Act, it appeared that the use of the present tense in the word "is", must as a matter of the ordinary and natural interpretation of the words used mean that the phrase related to the time of enforcement and not to any other time.

In particular, if it had been the intention of the legislature that the phrase should relate to the date of the award, then the draftsman would surely have used words which made that intention clear.

The defendants' main argument against that construction was that the courts had always refused to give statutes retrospective effect unless they contained clear words which showed that such effect was intended; that if the phrase in dispute were to be interpreted as relating to the time of enforcement of an award rather than the time of its making the result would be to give the Act retrospective effect; and that there were in this case no plain words in the Act showing that such effect was intended.

It was contended that an award made in a foreign state which was not a party to the convention at the time of its making would not be enforceable in the United Kingdom under the Act unless and until that foreign state subsequently became a party to the convention. Upon that happening however, an award which could not previously have been so enforceable would, immediately and *ipso facto* become enforceable.

While that argument appeared on first presentation to be of considerable force, there were two answers which showed that it was not well-founded.

First, the presumption against interpreting a statute as having retrospective effect was based on the assumption that the result of giving retrospective effect would be to deprive persons of accrued rights and defences.

The result of an award being unenforceable as a convention award under the Act was simply that a person wishing to enforce such an award in the United Kingdom would be obliged to bring an action upon it at common law, the right to do that being expressly preserved by section 6 of the 1975 Act.

It could not therefore be said that his Lordship's construction of the Act would result in making an award which could not previously have been enforced at all against a person, newly enforceable against him under the Act. The only result was that the award became enforceable by a second and alternative form of procedure.

Section 5(2) and (3) of the Act afforded a wide range of defences to a person against whom an award was sought to be enforced under the Act and those covered the whole field of defences which would be available in a common law action. It could not therefore be said that the effect of his Lordship's construction of the Act took away any accrued rights or defences, and was therefore free from the objection which would exist if it did so.

Second, in the phrase "which is party to the ... convention" the legislature had shown in clear terms its intention to give the Act retrospective effect.

In his Lordship's view there was no ambiguity in section 7(1) of the Act, but if that was wrong and there was ambiguity, it was possible to resolve it by considering Article VII paragraph 2 of the convention which reinforced the view that the construction of the expression "convention award" contended for by the defendants was wrong and that contended for by the plaintiffs was correct.

Lord Fraser, Lord Bridge and Lord Templeman agreed.

Solicitors: Blakeney's; Charles Russell & Co.

Smuggler of drugs thought it was money

Regina v Taaffe

Before Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Scarman, Lord Roskill, Lord Bridge of Harwich and Lord Brightman

[Speeches delivered March 1]

Where the defendant had mistakenly believed that he was bringing currency into the country and that such importation was prohibited, but had in fact been bringing in cannabis resin the importation of which was prohibited, he was not guilty of an offence under section 170 (2) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979, of being "knowingly concerned in any fraudulent evasion ... (b) of any prohibition ... in force with respect to the goods ...".

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the Crown from the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Nolan) (*The Times* April 16, 1983; [1983] 1 WLR 627) who had allowed an appeal by the defendant, Paul Desmond Patrick Taaffe, from his conviction in the Gravesend Crown Court on November 11, 1982.

On February 12, 1982, the defendant drove a car into the green lane of the Sheerness ferry terminal and said that he had nothing to declare. The car was searched, and in the spare tyre were found five packages containing cannabis resin. The defendant was then searched, and a further three packages were found strapped to his back and under his clothing.

He was cautioned by the customs officer and asked if he knew what the substances in the packages were. He replied: "No, I am waiting to find out, because if it is drugs ...". The officer asked him: "What did you think was in the packages?" and he replied: "Money."

On his arraignment at the crown court, he pleaded not guilty. The recorder heard argument on the question whether on agreed facts a defence was afforded.

Those facts were: (a) the defendant had been enlisted by a third party in Holland to import a substance into England in fraudulent evasion of the prohibition on its importation and had so imported it; (b) the substance had in fact been cannabis; (c) the defendant had mistakenly believed it to be currency; (d) currency had not been the subject of any prohibition; (e) the defendant had mistakenly believed that it was.

The recorder ruled that, on those facts, the jury would have to be directed to convict. The defendant then changed his plea to "guilty" and was sentenced.

The question certified by the Court of Appeal was whether a defendant committed the offence under section 170 (2) where he (a) imported prohibited drugs into the United Kingdom, (b) intended fraudulently to evade a prohibition on importation, but (c) mistakenly believed the goods to be money and not drugs and (d) mistakenly believed that money was the subject of a prohibition.

Mr Anthony Arlidge, QC, and Mr Christopher Aylwin for the Crown; Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC, and Mr Roy Delville Roebuck for the defendant.

LORD SCARMAN said that the Lord Chief Justice had construed section 170 (2) as creating an offence not of absolute liability but as one of which an essential ingredient was a guilty mind.

To be "knowingly concerned" meant, in his judgment, knowledge not only of the existence of a smuggling operation but also that the substance being smuggled into the country was one the importation of which was prohibited by statute.

The respondent had thought that he was concerned in a smuggling operation but had believed that the substance was currency. The importation of currency was not subject to any prohibition.

The Lord Chief Justice had concluded: "He is to be judged against the facts that he believed them to be. Had this indeed been currency and not cannabis, no offence would have been committed. Does it make any difference that the [respondent] thought wrongly that by clandestinely importing currency he was committing an offence?"

The Crown had submitted that it did. The court had rejected the submission: the respondent's mistake of law could not convert the importation of currency into a criminal offence: and importing currency was what it had to be assumed that the respondent had believed he was doing.

His Lordship found the reasoning of the Lord Chief Justice compelling. He agreed with his construction of section 170(2): and the principle that a man must be judged on the facts as he believed them to be was an accepted principle of the criminal law when the state of a man's mind and his knowledge were ingredients of the offence with which he was charged.

His Lordship also agreed with the Lord Chief Justice that the case differed on its facts from *R v Hussain* ([1969] 2 QB 567) and *R v Hennessey (Timothy)* ([1978) 68 Cr App R 419). While there could be no doubt that *Hussain* had been correctly decided, it might be that *Hennessey* would have to be reconsidered in the light of the House's decision in *R v Courtie* (*The Times* March 6, 1984) for the court in *Hennessey* appeared to have paid no regard to the effect of section 26 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 on section 304 of the Customs and Excise Act 1952.

According to the principle enunciated in *Courtie*, it would seem likely that those two sections (now consolidated into section 170 of the 1979 Act) had substituted several offences, where the prohibited goods were controlled drugs and other prohibited imports, for the one offence in relation to all prohibited imports that had existed before the 1971 Act had been enacted.

But the point did not arise and his Lordship, therefore, expressed no concluded opinion as to whether the decision in *Hennessey* could stand with that of the House in *Courtie*.

For the reasons given by the Lord Chief Justice in the Court of Appeal, with whose judgment his Lordship fully agreed, his Lordship would answer the certified question in the negative and dismiss the appeal.

Lord Fraser, Lord Roskill, Lord Bridge and Lord Brightman agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise; Sebastian Coleman & Co for Fanshaw, Porter and Hazlehurst, Birkenhead.

Too severe a sentence

Regina v Lowes

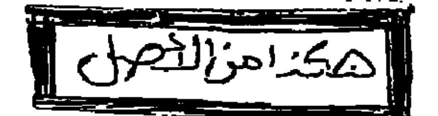
Two years' imprisonment was too severe a sentence for the buggery of a youth of 17 by an older man where it had been committed consensually in private and there was no suggestion that the youth had been thereby corrupted.

The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Griffiths and Sir John Thompson) so stated on February 28, substituting a 12 months' sentence.

Correction

In *Aly v Aly* (*The Times* December 27, 1983) solicitors for the appellant were Brian Lewis & Co, Fleet Street, not Bryan Lewis & Co, Sydenham.

In *Salvation Army v Dewsbury* (*The Times* March 1) references to section 1[illegible] should read section 151.



FOOTBALL: ENGLAND COULD BE IN FOR ANOTHER EUROPEAN NIGHT OF SHAME

Violence: only international censure will force the British to act

Sports Commentary

David Miller

Barcelona

The decay of football's public appeal over the past 20 years is measured not only by the unchecked vandalism, vocal and physical, of a large minority of its alleged supporters – some of whom are nervously awaited here today – but by the permanent defection of those for whom the game was once as much a part of weekly life as Sunday lunch.

In Paris last week I met an old friend, a metallurgist who is there advising an oil company on protracted Middle East legal issue. Just over 30 years ago as undergraduates we had travelled 130 miles return by rail and tube to see Hungary reveal at Wembley a level of skill which would remain a standard, perhaps for all time. That shared experience was as much as bond as our own modest efforts together on the field.

The friend was born and bred in Manchester, a devout disciple of City, yet one of those sufficiently broadminded in his affection to go happily also to Old Trafford. His mother lived next door to Malcolm Allison in the days before he began ordering champagne.

There was a time when football ran in his veins as indissolubly as the more prosaic equations of chemistry, when he would never have believed that this marvellous game could cease to be an addiction. Yet today he often does not bother even to read the Saturday results.

There are many changes he regrets, not least the uniformity of styles and tactics achieved with modern waterproof ball – and the ultimate synthetic advance, the plastic pitch – which has eliminated the old fluctuations of seasonal change: the Spurs or Manchester City teams which would, say, beat Wolves in September and April, yet be swamped by Billy Wright's men in November and January.

But what he most deplored is the defilement of ethics: the false status of posturing managers above their players; the impudence of club directors, of the Football Association, and now of the platitudinous Minister for Sport which has alienated a whole generation of once devoted supporters and their potential successors.

How can the FA expect any thinking person to take seriously, full time, a sport in which almost any match is debased, at the very least, by persistent, obscene, threatening chanting? Even Wembley has become as disreputable as a nineteenth-century fairground boxing booth.

Football has been abandoned to the thugs of the terraces and the executive-box hangers-on who sycophantically pay to have the international players join them after dinner.

Sociologists are obsessed with analysis of the allegedly socially depressed hooligan youngsters who have made the terraces and foreign cities a place of fear: a too liberalized approach to a genuine problem, as was echoed by Eric Heffer on Robin Day's *Question Time* last week. The loutish invader of the press-room in Paris whom I challenged to behave properly was more expensively dressed than I was.

Yet what about the vast, undemonstrative, law-abiding majority of both middle and working class people who have also been deprived of their privilege and modest priced leisure?

If the Prime Minister and her as yet inept Ministry for Sport are serious about law and order they must initiate legislation – not merely to aid the dithering FA, who are commercially scared of the honourable solution, a temporary withdrawal from international competition – in order to protect the interests of the majority, and foreign hosts, as well as to restrict the vandals, of whom the more intimidating are well-organized gangs.

Today and tomorrow the elite social rejects provocatively waving the *mantilla* of England's most famous club are expected on the Costa Brava and are said to have promised to beat the hell out of Sitges, Tossa and Loret de Mar on their way to or from the Nou Camp stadium here to see the Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final first leg. Where is the collaboration between Neil Macfarlane and the Spanish police, who know how to search for Basque terrorists?

If the pattern of recent years – in Turin, Luxembourg, Copenhagen, Basle, Rotterdam and now Paris – continues tomorrow there can be no doubt that UEFA will be entitled to ban English clubs from European competition. Were that to happen, how could the FA complain? Only international censure will force the British to act.

I am not in a position to make a comparative study of British and Spanish sociological influences: the strengths of Spanish police and courts, the travel immobility of the more impoverished working-class. What is certain is that the social structure of Spanish football is much superior to the British contemporary polarization of rich and poor.

At last Saturday's league meeting between Barcelona and Betis of Seville rival groups of supporters stood side by side on one of the small standing areas behind one of the goals in the magnificent, predominantly seated, 110,000-capacity stadium.

The crowd contained, as used to be the case in England, many elderly spectators, venerable old men courteously taking their wives by the arm. Thousands of families, some with four or more children, jostled politely for the wide range of hot snacks, much of them fresh cooked on open stalls.

There was an elegance about the occasion which had nothing to do with money but was a reflection of that ambience of expectant good will which used to be the pleasure of sport in Britain. When we remember how Bobby Charlton used to be revered in Spain it will be a tragedy if that international amity is further eroded by wanton mindlessness tomorrow.

The minimum man who achieved the maximum

The time and place were right for Banks

In the second of his interviews with remarkable goalkeepers, SIMON BARNES talks to Gordon Banks, formerly of Leicester City, Stoke City and England, whose skill confounded even the incomparable Pelé.

As every clown wants to be Hamlet, so, like every goalkeeper, Gordon Banks has always fancied himself as a centre forward. In fact, Banks – "the best I've ever faced" says Pelé – never wanted to be a goalie. When he was a lad, playing kickabout matches in the park with two jumpers at either end as goalposts, there were always arguments about who got to play the idiot's position of goalkeeper.

These were always settled by one player reluctantly going in goal "till I let one in". Perhaps better incentives for good goalkeeping could be imagined. But anyway, Banks was cajoled into keeping goal till he let one in when he and his mates were playing a bunch of bigger lads. Plainly, Banks thought, it would not be long before he was running about as centre forward again. He did not know that the fates had decided to referee this particular game.

He stayed in goal throughout the match ... mainly because he did not let any goals in. There was no helping it. Banks has one of those impassive, immobile faces, like Buster Keaton. With his goal under siege in crucial matches he was accused of standing between the sticks with all the tension of a man waiting under the station clock. But his face has the remarkable ability to move from nothing to a million candlepower expression of delight that comes on like the Blackpool illuminations.

"Weeeeeeell – I thought, this is not bad. I was making saves. Throwing myself about. I was quite busy. And the next day, I sort of stayed in goal ..." and the rest, folks, is history. The start of the path that led to that famous television clip, the one the television companies have run and rerun till it must be virtually transparent, with Banksie making *that* save from Pelé in Guadalajara in Mexico in 1970. "I've made plenty of other saves that good," Banks said hastily. "But that one was on television – and in the World Cup."

Two years after that, it was all over. At the time of the car accident that cost him the sight of an eye and the title of the best goalkeeper in the world, he was 34, the age when goalkeepers are meant to be at their best.

"It's no secret that I miss it a lot. I coach, but you can't beat participation." Banks made a two-year comeback in the United States and was surprised at how well things went; but, naturally, playing is all over now. He is a director of a promotions firm and he also does specialist goalkeeping coaching at Stoke City and Luton Town.



Banks at his best: a goalkeeper takes his place among football's legends

The arguments about Banks are never about whether he was the best of his time. That is axiomatic; at least it is for those of us who watched the 1966 World Cup finals at a formative age. Banks did not concede a goal until the semi-finals, and that was from a penalty from Eusebio, the best player in the tournament. The best outfield player, I mean. No, the arguments about Banks tend to be restricted to the question as whether or not he was the best goalkeeper ever.

That Pelé save

It is slightly odd that Banks is remembered for that Pelé save above all else, marvellous thought it was. For it was always Banks's way to be safe, rather than spectacular: "If I didn't have to dive, I'd know I'd done everything right. I always tried to do my job to the minimum. It is a question of positioning, something a lot of people don't understand. They think it wasn't much of a save, because the keeper didn't have to move.

"But if you make a save look easy, you make the job of scoring seem so much harder to the forward. A little kidology comes in here. If you make it look simple, you are adding to his frustrations – and you do anything to put them off.

Banks sees the really spectacular part of goalkeeping, the diving about it, as the simple and straightforward aspect of the game. Certainly it is the side of the game that is least amenable to coaching: either you've got that kind of coordination or you haven't: the rest is just practice. "Most goalkeepers are pretty good shot-stoppers," Banks said. "It is reading the game that is the difference between being ordinary and very good.

"Experience is the important thing here, of course. You can have a kid who plays brilliantly one day, and makes two silly mistakes the next, and that's two goals. It is completely different with outfielders. Pelé was brilliant at 18, but goalkeepers improve. The more you learn, the better you play.

"I mean, I'm always telling goalkeepers not to anticipate. I remember conceding some goals early in my career, when I had made up my mind that the ball was going one way. When it came the other, all my weight was on the wrong foot, and I couldn't move. Helpless. But then I look back at some saves I've made, and I wonder: did anticipation help? Was there something about the shape of the body as the ball was struck that told me where the ball was going?"

Banks is an unquestioned great, a grand master turned elder statesman, but, though I hate to shatter any illusions about him, I must reveal that he wasn't trying to turn the ball over the bar when he made that special save from Pelé. "I was just trying to get a hand to it," he said. "I thought it was going to drop under the bar after I touched it."

● *Tomorrow: Bruce Grobbelaar*

Tragedy for Harrow as Lancing win

By George Chesterton

Lancing Old Boys, the Arthur Dunn Cup holders, who produced an astonishing recovery in Saturday's semi-final, and Old Carthusians will dispute the final.

Lancing, who were 3-0 down to Old Harrovians, eventually won 5-3 but only after G. Harrow the scorer of Harrovians' first goal from an inswinging corner, had broken a leg.

Baucher, (penalty), and Straggon scored again for Harrovians but Lancing replied with three goals in eight minutes through Pitcher, Beale and Bennett. They went ahead with an own goal and then Pitcher scored again.

Cup draws

FA VASE: Semi-finals: Irthlingborough Dimonds v Stamford; Old Georgians or Stanstead v Whickham. (First legs March 24, second legs March 31.

FA YOUTH CUP: Semi-finals: Everton v Barnsley or Sunderland; Stoke City v Arsenal.

Toshack dismissed by Swansea

John Toshack was dismissed yesterday as manager of Swansea City. It was the second time he had left the club this season. The club chairman Doug Sharpe said he had been very despondent about the team's results. "I feel a new face in the club would give it the lift which we desperately need", he said.

Toshack said he had been asked to resign but had refused. He said "I couldn't see any reason to resign. The chairman told me that if I didn't he would sack me. And that's what he had to do."

After steering the club from the fourth division to the top of the first and then seeing them slide back two months later he returned as player-manager without a contract. There is speculation that he might now be invited to take over at Cardiff City, where he began his league career.

Swansea, with only one victory in nine league and cup games since the turn of the year, are second from bottom in the second division, with 18 points from 30 matches.

The Swansea assistant manager, Les Chappell, is now in charge of team affairs.

Toshack: refused to resign

League give Charlton ultimatum

The consortium hoping to take over Charlton Athletic's assets was given a 24-hour adjournment in the high court yesterday. It is seeking an order requiring adjournment receiver to sell them the assets.

As talks between various parties went on both before and after the court hearing, the Football League made it clear that if the second division club is to continue it must fulfil Saturday's match at home to Grimsby. "Under no circumstances will it be postponed," Graham Kelly, the Football League's secretary said. "It will either go ahead with a new company installed, which has met our conditions, or it will not go ahead and there will be no Charlton Athletic in the Football League."

After the brief court hearing, one of the consortium, Malcolm Stanley, appealed for a softening of the League's demands on the new company. "There is the cash available to astisfy the Football League requirements but meeting them as wanted would denude Charlton of cash to make the club a going concern

Stein brings back Nicholas

The Arsenal forward, Charlie Nicholas, is included in the Scottish under-21 squad, for the match with Yugoslavia on March 14, the first leg of the European Championship quarter-final, at Aberdeen.

Nicholas was dropped from the Scotland senior squad last week. The manager, Jock Stein, said yesterday: "It will give him a bit of confidence to come into this side and play with these players again." Stein has also included Johnston, of Watford.

SQUAD: Goalkeepers: B Gunn (Aberdeen), N Walker (Rangers); defenders: S Clarke (St Mirren), N Cooper (Aberdeen), R Gough, M Malpas (Dundee United), S Nicol (Liverpool), M Reid (Celtic); Midfield: N Simpson (Aberdeen), R Aitken, P McStay (Celtic), R Russell (Rangers); Forwards: E Black (Aberdeen), I Ferguson (Dundee), J Hewitt (Aberdeen, M Johnson (Watford), B McClair (Celtic), C Nicholas (Arsenal), J Robertson (Heart of Midlothian) C Walsh (Nottingham Forest).

OVERSEAS LEAGUE AND CUP RESULTS

BELGIAN: Antwerp 0, Anderlecht 3; Malines 3, Kortrijk 1; Beringen 2, Seraing 0; Bevern 1, FC Bruges 2; Lokeren 3, Waterschei 1; Waregem 5, FC Liége 2; RWD Molenbeek 4, Lierse 0; Standard Liége 5, Beerschot 1; CS Bruges 1, Ghent 1.

BULGARIAN: Levski Spartak 3, Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2; Trakia Plovdiv 1, CSKA Sofia 3; Lokomotiv Sofia 1, Cherno More 2; Botev 2, Etur 0; ZSK Sparta Varna 2, Beroe 0; Chernomorets 2, Sliven 0; Haskovo 1, Shoumen 0; Belasitsa 1, Slavia Sofia 0.

CZECHOSLOVAK: Sparta Praha 3, Banik Ostrava 1; Dukla Banska Bystrica 2, SU Teplice 1; RH Cheb 2 Dukla Praha 0; TJ Vitkovice 2, Slavia Praha 1; Spartak Trnava 2, Slovan Bratislava 1; Tatran Presov 1, ZVL Zilina 0; Inter Bratislava 3, Plastik Nitra 0; Bohemians 3, Lokomotiva Kolsice 0.

DUTCH: Excelsior Rotterdam 1, Roda JC Kerkrade 2; Sparta 3, Groningen 2; DS'79 Dordrecht 0, AZ'67 Alkmaar 2. Cup: Quarter-finals: first leg: Feyenoord 6, NEC Nijmegen 1; Haarlem 4, PSV Eindhoven 1; Fortuna Sittard 5, AZ'67 Alkmaar 0; Groningen 2, Twente Enschede 2.

EAST GERMAN: Rot-Weiss Erfurt 0, Dynamo Berlin 1; Hansa Rostock 2, Stahl Riesa 0; Wismut Aue 1, Vorwärts Frankfurt 1; LOK Leipzig 1, Chemie Leipzig 0; Chemie Halle 1, Karl-Marx-Stadt 2; Dynamo Dresden 4, Carl Zeiss Jena 0; Union Berlin 0, Magdeburg 1.

FRENCH: Bordeaux 0, Laval 0; Nancy 1, Monaco 1; Auxerre 1, Toulon 1; Bastia 1, Paris Saint-Gérmain 1; Rouen 3, Toulouse 1; Nimes w. Lens 1; Lille 2, Brest 1; Rennes 1, Metz 2. Postponed: Strasbourg v Nantes; Sochaux v Saint-Etienne.

GREEK: Egaleo 1, Ethnikos 1; OFI 1, Apollon Kalamarias 1; Aris 1, AEK 2; Olympiakos 3, Panionios 0; Larisa 1, Panathinaikos 0; Apollon Athens 0, Panserraikos 0; PAOK 3, Doxa 1; Yannina 0, Iraklis 1.

HUNGARIAN: Honved 8, MTK 0; Csepel 0, Volan 4; Ujpest Dozsa 1, Szeol AK 0; Diosgyor 1, Ferencvaros 3; Nyiregyhaza 0, Vasas 1; Pecs 1, Haladas 0; Videoton 1, Zalaegerszeg 0; Tatabanya 1, Raba Eto 1.

ITALIAN: No first division games played because of Saturday's international in Turkey.

PORTUGUESE: Benfica 7, Braga 0; Guimaraes 0, Porto 1; Espinho 0, Sporting 1; Boavista 0, Setubal 1; Varzim 1, Rio Ave 0; Salgueiros 0, Portimonense 0; Penafiel 2, Estoril 0; Farense 0, Agueda 1.

SPANISH: Cadiz 1, Real Sociedad 1; Real Zaragoza 0, Valencia 3; Salamanca 1, Málaga 0; Barcelona 3, Real Betis 1; Atletico Madrid 1, Real Madrid 0; Sevilla 2, Real Valladolid 1; Osasuna 1, Sporting Gijón 0; Real Mallorca 1, Real Murcia 1; Athletic Bilbao 1, Español 1.

SWISS: Bellinzona 0, La Chaux-de-Fonds 2; Xamax Neuchatel 2, Chiasso 0; Sion 3, Grasshoppers 3. Postponed: Lucerne v Servette; St Gallen v Lausanne; Wettingen v Basle; Young Boys v Aarau; Zurich v Vevey.

TURKISH: Ankaragucu 4, Orduspor 0; Trabzonspor 3, Antalyaspor 2; Fenerbahce 1, Sariyerspor 0; Zonguldakspor 1, Genclerbirligi 1; Besiktas 4, Karagumrukspor 1; Kocaelispor 3, Denizlispor 0; Sakaryaspor 2, Adanaspor 2; Adanademirspor 0; Boluspor 0.

YUGOSLAV: Red Star 2, Vardar Skopje 0; Zeljeznicar 1, Olimpija Ljubljana 1; Dinamo Vinkovci 1, Partizan Belgrade 0; Pristina 1, Rijeka 0; Buducnos Titograd 3, Dinamo Zagreb 1; Sloboda Tuzla 0, Vojvodina Novi Sad 0; Hajduk Split 1, Sarajevo 1; Radnicki Nis 4, Celik Zenica 1; Velez Mostar 1, Osijek 0.

SOVIET CUP: Quarter-finals: Dynamo Minsk 1, Cska Moscow 0; Moscow Dynamo 3, Chernomorets 1 (aet); Torpedo Moscow 0, Zenith Leningrad 0 (aet), Zenith won 7-6 on penalties.

WEST GERMAN CUP: Quarter-finals: Hanover 96 0, Borussia Mönchengladbach 1; Bocholt 1, Bayern Munich 2. Postponed: Hertha BSC Berlin v Schalke 04; Werder Bremen v VFB Stuttgart.

ARGENTINE LEAGUE: Boca Juniors 2, Talleres de Cordoba 0; Newell's Old Boys 3, Ferrocarril Oeste (La Pampa) 2; San Lorenzo Almagro 4, Gimnasia Esgrima Mendoza 3; Temperley 0, Union Del Chaco 0; Belgrano Cordoba 1, Velez Sarsfield 0; Central Norte Salta 1, Rosario Central 1; Estudiantes 2, River Plate 2; Atletico Uruguay 1, Huracan 2; Instituto Cordoba 3, Ferrocarril Oeste 3; Altos Hornos Zapla 1, Platense 2; Chacarita Juniors 7, Kimberley Mar Del Plata 0; Atlectico Tucuman 0, Independiente 1; Argentinos Juniors 0, Racing de Cordoba 0; Union Santa Fe 2, Atletico Ledesma 1; Olimpo Bahia Blanca 1, Atlanta 0; Estudiantes 2, Union San Vicente 1.

BRAZILIAN: Coritiba 3, Ferroviario 1; Goias 2, Rio Branco 1; Joinville 2, Auto Esporte 0; Traze 1, Tuna Luso 0. Winners go through to second stage.

ATHLETICS

Miss Kinch's silent screen

From Pat Butcher, Gothenburg

The Swedes are considered to be a remote people, a belief not borne out by the friendly welcome we were afforded during the European indoor championships that finished on Sunday. It was left to Beverley Kinch, the British 60 metres gold medal winner, and her coach, Doug Wilson, to indulge themselves in a manner reminiscent of Greta Garbo.

Miss Kinch, just 20 years of age, is bound for glory, and, with the media coverage given to the sport nowadays, Miss Kinch's face could become almost as well known as that of the enigmatic Swede.

But Miss Kinch, like Miss Garbo, does not want to talk to the press. Neither does Mr Wilson, at whose behest Miss Kinch remains silent. Mr Wilson even spent three hours at Sunday's banquet telling me that he does not talk to the press.

Mr Wilson, it seems, has been misquoted over an impportant statement he made concerning Miss Kinch's non-participation in this year's Olympic trials. Mr Wilson said that since there is a sponsor, the athletes should get paid for competing in the trials. This, he says, came out as him saying that Miss Kinch would not compete unless she got paid. Hence, the press blackout.

Whatever the quote, Miss Kinch is competing in neither the UK closed championships, nor the Olympic trials, both sponsored by HFC Trust, who have invested £200,000 in British athletics this year. Mr Wilson thinks his athlete should be pre-selected for the Olympic Games, but concedes that, with nine athletes already pre-selected, any calls for more would soon leave HFC Trust with nobody in the trials. The official whisper, however, is that Miss Kinch will be selected, anyway, for both the 100 metres and the long jump.

Mr Wilson does believe, in general, that athletes should be paid for performing, and he is quite right. Naturally enough, Mr Wilson also wants to attract individual sponsorship for his athlete. Where he is wrong in not talking to the press is that they produce articles which can attract sponsors.

Mr Wilson has been likened to Svengali, with his dictation to Miss Kinch of what she has to do with every waking moment, but his minutely detailed daily regimen, which includes a five-hour training session, has produced results. Miss Kinch won the World Student Games 100 metres last year, and then set a British long jump record while coming fifth in the world championships. Now, she is also a European indoor title holder.

So confident is Mr Wilson that he predicted Miss Kinch's winning time of 7.16sec on Sunday – a new British and Commonwealth record.

In the unlikely event of Ade Mafe failing to realize his talents as a sprinter, there will be ample opportunity for him to seek his fortune as a song and dance man. So good was his robot-mime, complete with white gloves and plastic glasses, at the banquet disco, that he was invited to do it on the stage, and brought the house down with his performance.

BASKETBALL

Team Jack built from bottom up

By Nicholas Harling

Jack Lehane, the coach who has taken Bracknell Pirates from bottom but one in the National League, their position last season, to their first appearance in the national championships play-offs, sponsored by Wimpey Homes, at Wembley, has been rewarded with the most valuable coach of the year award.

If Bracknell are not quite the team that Jack built, as all but two of his squad were with the club before his arrival in the close season, they are certainly players that the genial 45-year-old American has helped develop with startling success. A batchelor from Brockton, Massachusetts, who spends virtually all his spare time reading about the game, writing about it, discussing it or coaching it. Lehane was brought in from the continent by the man he was to succeed, Brian Nays-Smith, now solely the club's chairman.

Lehane's enthusiasm was infectious. But although Bracknell started the season promisingly, their hopes of reaching Wembley on March 16 and 17 receded in a run of 10 defeats, the last of which was a humiliating 29-point loss at home to FSO Cars Warrington.

It was on the long train ride to Sunderland for the following afternoon's fixture that Lehane and his assistant, Andy Brown, one of the veterans of the English league, decided new tactics that were to bring the club not only a win on Wearside but 11 more victories in the next 13 games.

With Brown, who came out of premature retirement to share the playmaking duties with the club's outstanding American, Danny Callandrillo, Bracknell slowed the game down to dramatic effect. With the weight off his shoulders Callandrillo began to look more like his old self with the result that Steve Keenan, the club's other American, also benefited as did Tony Balogun who has just been selected for Great Britain's Olympic squad and Peter Scantlebury, the England junior.

Wembley programme (Semi-finals on March 16): Solent v Bracknell (6.30); Crystal Palace v Warrington (8.30).

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Crans Montana	160	230	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	−4
Slush on lower slopes							
Davos	90	180	Good	Varied	Good	Sun	−1
Good skiing everywhere							
Flaine	–	355	Good	Pwdr	Good	Fine	1
Superb skiing everywhere							
Gstaad	60	150	Good	Pwdr	Good	Sun	2
Good skiing all pistes							
Kitzbühel	50	170	Good	Varied	Fair	Fine	−2
Powder on hard base							
Klosters	90	180	Good	Pwdr	Good	Sun	−1
Good off piste skiing on high slopes							
St Moritz	65	85	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	−1
Good piste skiing							
Seefeld	90	170	Good	Fair	Good	Fine	2
Good ski conditions							
Soldeu	55	155	Good	Varied	Good	Sun	−1
Ski conditions improved							
Val d'Isère	125	245	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	−10
Lower south facing slopes icy							
Verbier	60	215	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	5
Generally good skiing							
Villars	135	235	Good	Pwdr	Good	Fine	7
Heavy snow falls last weekend							
Wengen	40	130	Good	Varied	Good	Fair	−1
Good snow on all slopes							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports has been received from tourist boards:

AUSTRIA

	Depth (cm) L	U	State of Piste	Weather –	°C
Alpbach	50	150	–	–	−4
Axamer-Lizum	–	165	–	–	−11
Badgastein	40	210	–	–	−11
Berwang	135	235	–	–	−10
Brand	60	190	–	–	−7
Igls	25	150	–	–	−11
Ischgl	120	280	–	–	−10
Kaprun	95	250	–	–	−8
Lech-Zürs	170	275	–	–	−10
Lienz	65	130	–	–	−5
Maryhofen	20	110	–	–	−12
Mitterbach	20	160	–	–	−8
Obertauern	240	280	–	–	−11
Saalbach	70	190	–	–	−9
Schruns	10	280	–	–	−10
Serfaus	75	210	–	–	−6
Söll	60	170	–	–	−6
Wildschonau	30	150	–	–	−4

NORWAY

	Depth (cm) L	U	State of Piste	Weather –	°C
Finse	–	230	Good	–	−5
Geilo	–	85	Good	–	−0
Gol	–	40	Good	–	−5
Lillehammer	–	82	Good	–	−5
Norefjell	–	110	Good	–	0
Oslo	–	120	Good	–	−2
Rjukan	–	110	Good	–	−5
Voss	–	140		–	−5

SWITZERLAND

	Depth (cm) L	U	State of Piste	Weather –	°C
Adelboden	70	150	Pwdr	–	−10
Braunwald	170	220	Pwdr	–	−9
Champéry	30	150	Pwdr	–	−5
Château d'Oex	100	180	Pwdr	–	−9
Disentis	110	210	Pwdr	–	−7
Engleberg	80	180	Pwdr	–	−10
Kandersteg	60	170	Pwdr	–	−10
Laax-Flims	110	220	Pwdr	–	−8
Lenk	70	180	Pwdr	–	−13
Lenzerheide	100	150	Pwdr	–	−9
Les Diablerets	100	150	Pwdr	–	−13
Pontresina	70	150	–	–	−22
St Cergue	130	200	–	–	−8
Savognin	60	120	–	–	−6
Unterwasser	80	150	–	–	−10

SCOTLAND: Cairngorm: Upper runs, middle runs and lower slopes: complete, wide cover of wet snow. Vertical runs: 1,800ft. Access roads: clear; snow level: 2,000ft. Glenshee: Upper runs: runs complete. Hard packed snow with icy patches. Middle runs: complete. Wet snow on a firm base. Lower slopes: ample nursery areas; wet snow on a firm base. Vertical runs: 1,000ft: Hill and main roads: clear; snow level: 2,000ft. Lecht: Upper and middle runs complete, wide snow cover. Wet snow on a firm base. Lower slopes: ample nursery areas. Wet snow on a firm base. Vertical runs: 700ft; Hill and main roads: clear; snow level 2,000ft.

ICE HOCKEY

Wembley does not unnerve the leading four

By Robert Pryce

The prospect of playing at Wembley – "the spiritual home of British ice hockey", a sponsor's agent called it last week – has not unnerved the premier division's leading teams. The top four all won at home: Dundee and Ayr made certain that Nottingham's weekend in Scotland went unrewarded and Durham and Streatham survived more rigorous tests of their temperament.

Another large crowd at Durham saw the home team give away a 3-0 lead as Hay and Hand took advantage of power-play opportunities to put Murrayfield 6-4 ahead in the second period; but Durham recovered and Crapper's goal 12 minutes from time eventually proved the decider in a 7-6 win.

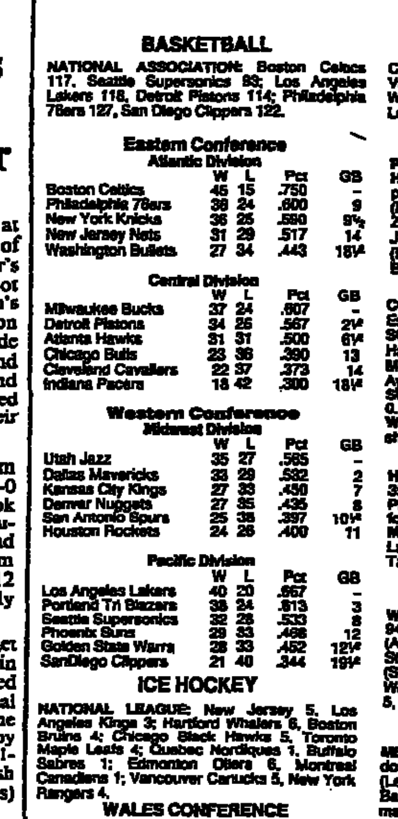
Roy Halpin was again on target with four goals in Dundee's 9-5 win over Nottingham. He also credited with three assists, giving him a total of 88 for the season to beat the modern-era, British record, set by Lawrie Lovell (Murayfield) in 1971-72. Last week he broke the British points-scoring (goals and assists) record he set two seasons ago.

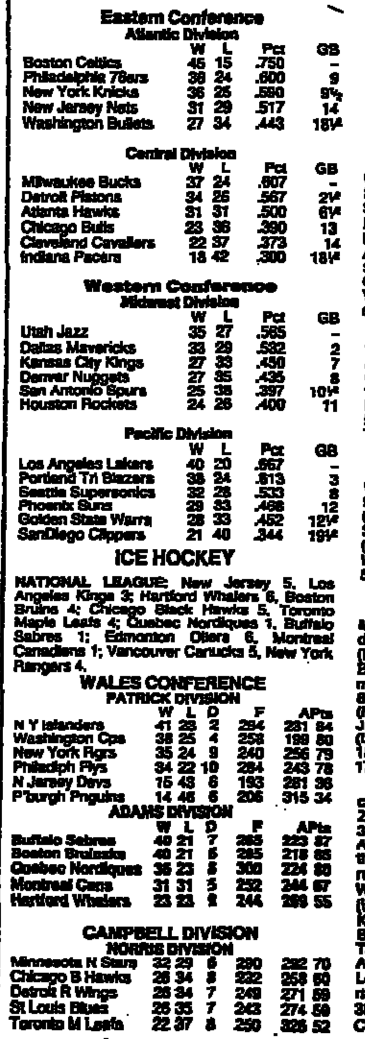
BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cleveland (Earle 6, Cook 3), Fife 7 (MacDougall 4); Dundee 9 (Halpin 4, Walker 3), Nottingham 5; Ayr 10 (A. Reid 3, J Gibson 3), Nottingham 1; Durham 7, Murrayfield 6 (Hay 4); Streatham 6, Whitley Bay 3. First division: Crowtree 12, Glasgow 10; Grimsby 8, Bournmouth 7; Richmond 1, Altrincham 3; Solihull 7, Blackpool 6; Southampton 4, Peterborough 1.

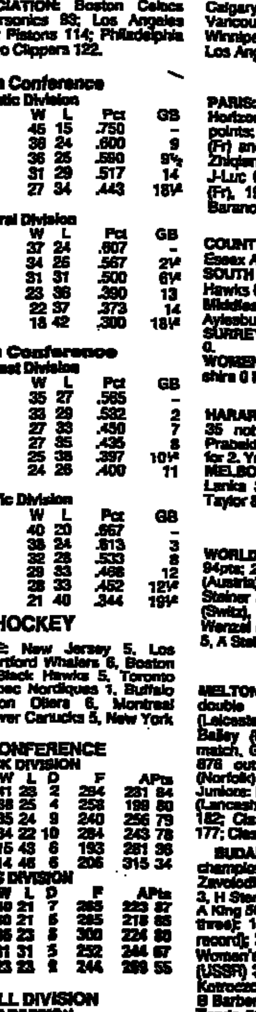
Benfica win 7-0

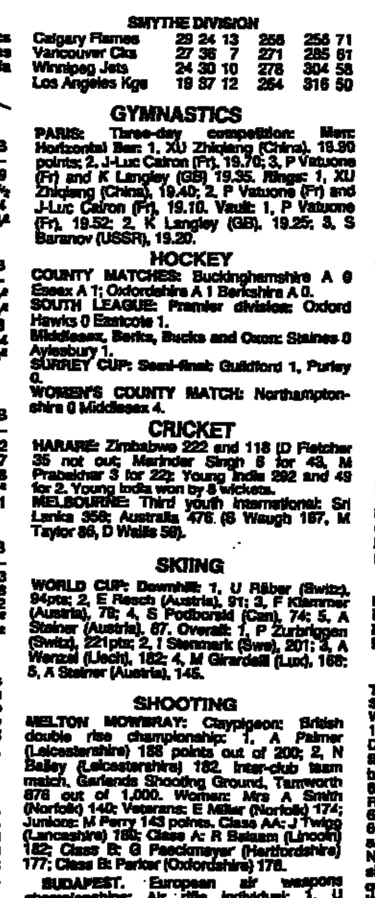
Lisbon (Reuter) – Benfica warmed up for their European Cup quarter-final first-leg tie against Liverpool tomorrow by overwhelming Braga 7-0 in a Portuguese first division match at the weekend.

FOR THE RECORD









BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Boston Celtics 117, Seattle Supersonics 93; Los Angeles Lakers 118, Detroit Pistons 114; Philadelphia 76ers 127, San Diego Clippers 122.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston Celtics	45	15	.750	–
Philadelphia 76ers	36	24	.600	9
New York Knicks	36	25	.590	9½
New Jersey Nets	31	29	.517	14
Washington Bullets	27	34	.443	18½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee Bucks	37	24	.607	–
Detroit Pistons	34	26	.567	2½
Atlanta Hawks	31	31	.500	6½
Chicago Bulls	23	36	.390	13
Cleveland Cavaliers	22	37	.373	14
Indiana Pacers	18	42	.300	18½

Western Conference

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah Jazz	35	27	.565	–
Dallas Mavericks	33	29	.532	2
Kansas City Kings	27	33	.450	7
Denver Nuggets	27	35	.435	8
San Antonio Spurs	25	38	.397	10½
Houston Rockets	24	26	.400	11

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles Lakers	40	20	.667	–
Portland Tri Blazers	38	24	.613	3
Seattle Supersonics	32	28	.533	8
Phoenix Suns	29	33	.468	12
Golden State Warrs	28	33	.452	12½
SanDiego Clippers	21	40	.344	19½

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New Jersey 5, Los Angeles Kings 3; Hartford Whalers 6, Boston Bruins 4; Chicago Black Hawks 5, Toronto Maple Leafs 4; Quebec Nordiques 1, Buffalo Sabres 1; Edmonton Oilers 6, Montreal Canadiens 1; Vancouver Canucks 5, New York Rangers 4.

WALES CONFERENCE

PATRICK DIVISION

	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
N Y Islanders	41	23	2	294	231	84
Washington Cps	38	25	4	258	199	80
New York Rgrs	35	24	9	240	256	79
Philedph Flys	34	22	10	284	243	78
N Jersey Devs	15	43	6	193	281	36
P'burgh Pnguins	14	46	6	206	315	34

ADAMS DIVISION

	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Buffalo Sabres	40	21	7	265	223	87
Boston Bruins	40	21	5	285	218	85
Quebec Nordiques	36	23	8	300	224	80
Montreal Cans	31	31	5	252	244	67
Hartford Whalers	23	23	9	244	269	55

CAMPBELL DIVISION

NORRIS DIVISION

	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Minnesota N Stars	32	29	6	290	292	70
Chicago B Hawks	26	34	8	222	258	60
Detroit R Wings	26	34	7	249	271	59
St Louis Blues	26	35	7	243	274	59
Toronto M Leafs	22	37	8	250	326	52

SMYTHE DIVISION

	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Calgary Flames	29	24	13	258	256	71
Vancouver Cks	27	36	7	271	285	61
Winnipeg Jets	24	30	10	278	304	58
Los Angeles Kgs	19	37	12	264	316	50

GYMNASTICS

PARIS: Three-day competition: Men: Horizontal Bar: 1, XU Zhiqiang (China), 19.90 points; 2, J-Luc Cairon (Fr), 19.70; 3, P Vatuone (Fr) and K Langley (GB) 19.35. Rings: 1, XU Zhiqiang (China), 19.40; 2, P Vatuone (Fr) and J-Luc Cairon (Fr), 19.10. Vault: 1, P Vatuone (Fr), 19.52; 2, K Langley (GB), 19.25; 3, S Baranov (USSR), 19.20.

HOCKEY

COUNTY MATCHES: Buckinghamshire A 6 Essex A 1; Oxfordshire A 1 Berkshire A 0.

SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier division: Oxford Hawks 0 Eastcote 1.

Middlesex, Berks, Bucks and Oxon: Staines 0 Aylesbury 1.

SURREY CUP: Semi-final: Guildford 1, Purley 0.

WOMEN'S COUNTY MATCH: Northamptonshire 0 Middlesex 4.

CRICKET

HARARE: Zimbabwe 222 and 118 (D Fletcher 35 not out; Maninder Singh 8 for 43, M Prabakhar 3 for 22); Young India 292 and 49 for 2. Young India won by 8 wickets.

MELBOURNE: Third youth international: Sri Lanka 358; Australia 476 (S Waugh 187, M Taylor 86, D Wallis 58).

SKIING

WORLD CUP: Downhill: 1, U Räber (Switz), 94pts; 2, E Resch (Austria), 91; 3, F Klammer (Austria), 78; 4, S Podborski (Can), 74; 5, A Steiner (Austria), 87. Overall: 1, P Zurbriggen (Switz), 221pts; 2, I Stenmark (Swe), 201; 3, A Wenzel (Liech), 182; 4, M Girardelli (Lux), 168; 5, A Steiner (Austria), 145.

SHOOTING

MELTON MOWBRAY: Claypigeon: British double rise championship: 1, A Palmer (Leicestershire) 188 points out of 200; 2, N Bailey (Leicestershire) 182. Inter-club team match, Garlands Shooting Ground, Tamworth 878 out of 1,000. Women: Mrs A Smith (Norfolk) 140; Veterans: E Miller (Norfolk) 174; Juniors: M Perry 143 points. Class AA: J Twigg (Lancashire) 189; Class A: R Balaam (Lincoln) 182; Class B: G Peackmayer (Hertfordshire) 177; Class B: Parker (Oxfordshire) 178.

BUDAPEST. European air weapons championships: Air rifle individual: 1, U Zavolodko (USSR) 589; 2, P Heberle (Fr) 588; 3, H Stenvag (Nor) 585; British: M Cooper 578, A King 569, J R Churchill 565. Air rifle (teams of three): 1, USSR 1,755 (world and European record); 2, France 1,743. British score: 1,712. Women's air pistol (40 shots): M Dobrantcheva (USSR) 386; 2, S Kapoustoy (Rom) 385; 3, L Kotroczo (Hungary) 384. British: C Bartlett 370, B Barber 362; S Lovegrove 351. Air Pistol: 1, V Tondo (It), 586; 2, A Melentiev (USSR), 585; 3, A Egrischin (USSR), 582. British: I Reid 577; P Leatherdale 561; G Robinson 559. Women's air rifle: 1, E Forian (Hun), 389; 2, N Matova (Bul), 387; 3, S Zionen (Fr) 387. British: 28, S Cooper and I Daw.

TENNIS

GRAND PRIX RANKINGS (US unless stated): 1, J Connors, 533 pts; 2, J McEnroe, 525; 3, Y Noah (Fra), 296; 4, T Smid (Cz), 232; 5, I Lendl (Cz), 227; 6, H Leconte (Fr), 224; 7, J Arias, 215; 8, W Fibak (Pol), 185; 10, B Testerman, 142.

ATP RANKINGS (US unless stated): 1, I Lendl (Cz); 2, J McEnroe; 3, M Wilander (Swe); 4, J Connors; 5, Y Noah (Fr); 6, J Arias; 7, J Higueras (Sp); 8, K Curren (SA); 9, G Vilas (Arg); 10, A Gomez.

MEXICO CITY: Davis Cup: American zone, quarter final: Mexico bt Canada, 5-0.

CAIRO: Egyptian Open men's tournament final: F Luna (Sp) beat M Dickson (US), 6-4, 6-2.

BRUSSELS: Belgian indoor championship, first round: H Pfister (US) bt B Teacher (US), 6-2, 7-5; H Gunthardt (Switz) bt M Purcell (US), 6-0, 0-6, 6-1; H Sundstrom (Swe) bt W Scanlon (US), 7-6, 2-6, 7-6.

HANDBALL

ENGLISH NATIONAL LEAGUE: Brentwood 27, Leicester 13.

FOOTBALL

THIRD DIVISION

Southend v Bradford City, postponed

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Horwich v Worksop, postponed.

MIDWEEK LEAGUE: Cup: Portsmouth 6, Cambridge U 0.

BOUAKE, IVORY COAST: Africa Nations Cup, first round: Nigeria 2, Ghana 1.

RUGBY UNION

KENT CUP: Semi-final: Sidcup 19, Charlton Park 12.

HANTS SENIOR MERIT TABLE: Portsmouth Polytechnic 3, Eastleigh 7.

REAL TENNIS

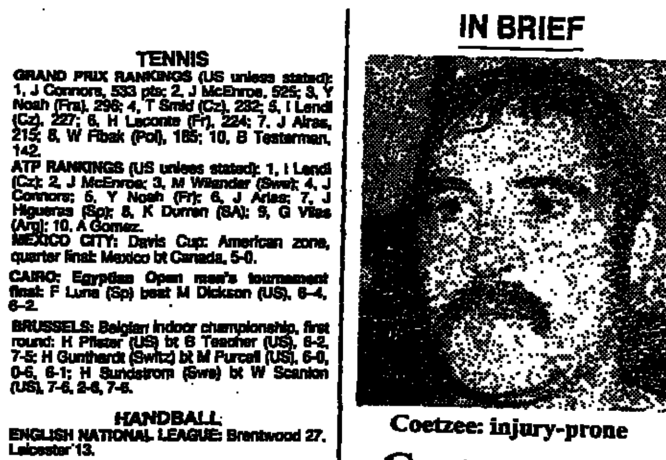
TROON: Scottish Open Championships: Singles: quarter-finals: C J Ronaldson bt F Willis, 6-4, 6-2; L Deuchar bt P G Tabley, 6-3, 6-1; A C Lovell bt C J Lumley, 6-5, 3-6, 6-5; W F Davies (US) bt K Sheldon, 6-1, 6-1. Semi-finals: Deuchar bt Ronaldson, 6-2, 6-3; Davies bt Lovell, 6-3, 6-2. Final: Davies bt Deuchar, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2. Doubles: Semi-finals: Deuchar and Ronaldson bt P L Dawes and Sheldon, 6-0, 4-6, 6-0; Davies and Tabley bt Lovell and Willis, 6-5, 6-5. Final: Deuchar and Ronaldson bt Davies and Tabley, 6-0, 6-3.

NEWPORT, Rhode Island: US inaugural ladies singles championship. (Sunday): Singles: quarter-finals: K Allen bt M Pignon, 6-2, 6-2; M Wright bt P Danby, 6-5, 6-4; S Macintosh bt A Warren-Piper, 3-6, 6-5, 6-4; L Ronaldson bt E Woodthorpe, 6-1, 6-1. Semi-finals: Allen bt Wright, 6-1, 6-4; Ronaldson bt Macintosh, 6-2, 6-2. Final: Ronaldson bt Allen, 0-6, 6-0, 6-4. Doubles: Semi-finals: Allen and Macintosh bt V Hopkins and Pignon, 6-0, 6-0; Ronaldson and Wright bt Danby and Warren-Piper, 6-3, 6-3. Final: Ronaldson and Wright bt Allen and Macintosh, 6-4, 1-6, 6-1.

DARTS

EDINBURGH: Men's international match: Scotland 5, England 10; Women's match: Scotland 1, England 4.

IN BRIEF





Coetzee: injury-prone

Coetzee calls off WBA title defence

The World Boxing Association (WBA) heavyweight champion, Gerrie Coetzee, of South Africa has called off his title defence against Alfredo Evangelista, of Spain scheduled for May 5 in Johannesburg.

Cedric Kushner, Coetzee's manager, said yesterday that the contest had been cancelled so as not to jeopardize Coetzee's bout with the International Boxing Federation (IBF) champion Larry Holmes due to be held in the middle of the year. There's an element of risk in any fight, and a double element of risk when an injury-prone fighter like Gerrie is involved, Kushner said

Rugby League: Oldham rugby club's newly appointed coach, Dave Cox, has decided not to take the post after all. Cox, who is based in Australia, was given the position after the resignation last month of Peter Smethurst and Frank Barrow. Cox telephoned to say he could not afford to leave Australia. He has paid money into pension scheme and if he left the country before belonging to it for five years he would lose every penny.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

HOCKEY

Inter Services Championship Officers' Club Ground, Aldershot 2.15.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Second division: Watford Royals v Nottingham (8.45).

FOOTBALL

LONDON SENIOR CUP: Second Round: Hitchen Town v Sutton United. Third Round: Leytonstone/Ilford v Hayes; Leyton Wingate v Kingstonian.

SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: Sussex RUR Cup Final: Southwick v Littlehampton (at Lancing F.C.).

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Heybridge v Bowers.

MID-WEEK LEAGUE CUP (2.0): Cambridge United v Southend United.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Cambridge University v Territorial Army (Grange Road, 2.15).

OTHER SPORT

RACKETS: Oxford University v Cambridge University Match (Queen's Club, 10.30am).

RUGBY UNION

Laidlaw holds the key to Scottish team against France

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Scotland's selectors will meet tonight to consider the team to play France at Murrayfield on March 17 for the grand slam, although it remains to be seen whether they will announce the party tomorrow. Much may depend on the fitness report they receive on Laidlaw, the scrum half who left the field during the game against Ireland last Saturday and was due to be examined last night.

There was no indication of concussion when he was examined on Saturday evening but Scotland will take no risks on the player's fitness If he is ruled out on medical grounds they may consider either former internationals such as Lawson or Morgan, still playing first-class rugby with Heriot's FP and Stewart's Melville FP respectively, or a promising youngster such as Stuart Johnston, of Watsonians, younger brother of the centre, David.

Johnston junior was reserve scrum half to Hunter (Selkirk) for the B international against France and it is the cruellest blow that Hunter himself should not be available. After replacing Laidlaw and winning his first cap at Lansdowne Road, Hunter collided with a youngster as he ran off the pitch and fractured a cheekbone. He had an operation yesterday and will be out of action for six weeks.

While Scotland digest their first triple crown triumph for 46 years, won with some style and appreciated by all who have enjoyed their approach to the game over the last decade, England's selectors are digesting some rather less palatable facts and will not decide the team to play Wales at Twickenham on March 17 until this weekend, when they will have had reports on the John Player Cup quarter-finals, and a couple of other games besides.

Carleton, the Orrell wing who left the field briefly during the second half against France, did not suffer concussion and will therefore be available against Wales but his position is not in doubt. He hardly received a pass all afternoon. There must, however, be queries over the composition of England's back row, over their lineout showing, and over Woodward in the centre.

Injuries have limited the number of options available at lock and centre, including that to Davies, the Wasps stand-off, whose knee ligament injury will keep him out of his club's cup game with Bath this Saturday and from international consideration. Rees, the Nottingham open-side flanker must be very close to a first cap while it was reported yesterday that the man in possession of the number seven shirt, Winterbottom, has been asked to play for Nice next season, who were runners-up in the French club knockout final last season.



Driving force: Peter Scudamore triumphs on Il Pontevecchio. (Photograph: Ian Stewart).

Francome's reluctant hero

John Francome, the champion jockey, scored an unbelievable half-length victory at Windsor yesterday on racing's most reluctant horse, Dancing Sovereign. Only Francome cold have got the Sussex-trained gelding home after prospects had looked hopeless all way round the Windsor figure of eight course.

Dancing Sovereign should have given Francome his 1,000th career win at Plumpton last week, but refused to race. Yesterday he looked like doing the same and was 50 yards behind the other 17 runners in the Freddie Starr Handicap Hurdle when the race started.

"He was trying to pull himself up all the way round – the most difficult ride I've had in 14 seasons," said Francome, who somehow cajoled Dancing Sovereign into a prominent position on the outside after the second-last flight.

Even then, it looked hopeless as the gelding swerved as if to duck out of it, but Francome still had him under control at the last and on the run-in, racegoers could not believe the sight of Dancing Sovereign suddenly getting into gear. He made up ground fast and led near the finish for a famous victory that was cheered all the way into the winner's enclosure.

"That was a tremendous performance from John, Dancing Sovereign has plenty of ability but he's very difficult, and seems allergic to racing", said his trainer Dina Smith. "He was getting to the stage where it was the beginning of the end for him as a racehorse. If he runs again, it will be with blinkers."

Francome quickly completed a double on Dickie Murray in the College Novices Handicap Chase and that puts him 26 behind Stan Mellor's all-time 1,034 winner record. "Not a picnic" Francome said after jumping off Fred Winter's 64th winner.

However, the week in which the champion is due to face a Jockey Club disciplinary committee for "dropping his hands" at Newbury last month, got off to a bad start. Francome partnered the odds-on Lincoln hope Morality Stone in the opener, but was beaten when he stopped riding the Epsom-trained horse on the run-in.

Morality Stone had made a mistake two out and appeared lame. Francome reported that the seven-year-old did not feel right. Nevertheless, his trainer Philip Mitchell stated that all was well with Morality Stone, who is still on course for Doncaster, where he will be ridden by Bryn Crossley.

Somewhat in the Windsor shade because of Francome's brilliance was a first double for new trainer David Murray-Smith with Il Pontevecchio and Going Broke in the two divisions of the Thames Novices Hurdle.

Fulke Walwyn's Straight Accord extended his unbeaten sequence this season to four – all at Windsor – when gamely holding off Crosa in the March Handicap Chase.

RACING

Bonum Omen ready to expose any chink in Corbiere's armour

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

Corbiere, the winner of last season's Grand National and currently second favourite for Aintree this year, will be the star attraction at Warwick today when he contests the Crudwell Cup.

At his best Corbiere would have an outstanding chance of winning but there must be a doubt about him being at his peak again so soon after being injured in the Eider Steeplechase at Newcastle on February 18. On that occasion he was nearly brought down when he inadvertently became the meat in the sandwich after a bout of scrimmaging took place. He returned home bruised and sore.

Obviously, Jenny Pitman would not be running him again so soon unless she was happy with him, but the fact remains Corbiere has missed some work and in the circumstances it might be more sensible to go for Bonum Omen who will be receiving 15lb.

Warwick brought the best out of Bonum Omen twice last season, initially when he won the Edward Courage Cup by 20 lengths and again when he won the Brooke Bond Oxo National Trial. His best effort this season was at Chepstow two days after Christmas when he finished fifth in the Welsh National, in front of Corbiere, incidentally. Bonum Owen is a relentless galloper who will be well suited by today's distance and if there is a flaw in Corbiere's armour he looks the one to expose it.

The Ayr Wedding Hunters Trophy has had to be spilt for the second year in succession for safety reasons. With Connaught Ranger, Siobhan's Jot; Assured and Prayukta all drawn together the second division looks the harder.

Connaught Ranger won at Newbury before he finished fourth in the race won by Swifwood at Doncaster recently. He has a good chance, judged on that form, but I prefer Prayukta, the mount of Oliver Sherwood, who is one of the most accomplished amateurs riding. Prayukta looed poised to win a similar race at Leicester last week but fell.

Sherwood's younger brother, Simon, should also be on a winner today when he partners Lakin in the Tenterden Hunters' Chase at Folkestone. Lakin has been in fine fettle this season, winning at Fakenham and Leicester.

With King Baba, Left Bank, Viewed Away and storm Prince all standing their ground visitors to the East Kent course are assured of an excellent race for the Gay Record Challenge Trophy.

King Baba won this race 12 months ago carrying 41lb less than he has today and he should go well again, provided that his confidence has not been affected by that unpleasant experience at Kempton last month when he was brought down.

However, I doubt whether he will manage to concede 24lb to Storm Prince, who has also got a victory over today's course and distance to his credit. Recently, Storm Prince showed that he was in fine fettle when running The Somac to half a length at Fontwell.

Finally, Josh Gifford's Wily Yeoman, who won in convincing style at Plumpton last time out, should land the Hythe Novice Hurdle at the expense of Deep In Debt.

Lord Wigg honoured

Lord Wigg, former chairman of the Levy Board and life president of BOLA until his death last August, is to be commemorated by the George Wigg Memorial City and Suburban Handicap at Epsom on April 24. The race, which will have £12,000 added, is to be sponsored by BOLA. On the same day a bronze head of Lord Wigg, sculpted by Angela Conner, will be unveiled at the course by Lord "Manny" Shinwell, a close friend and parliamentary colleague of Lord Wigg.

POINT TO POINT

New course with a sylvan setting

By Ian Reid

The Ross Harriers tomorrow hold the first meeting over a new park course, all on old turf, at Garnons, (seven miles west of Hereford, off the A438), the estate of Sir John and Lady Cotterell. Spectators will get a splendid view, not only of the racing, but also of the Wye Valley in the background. I fancy Crumpet Catcher for the Audi Adjacent, Tanker for the men's open and Royal Portora for the ladies.

Courses come and go, but many will bewail the loss of Mollington, where the Bicester raced in bright sunshine for the last time last Saturday. Four horses rose together at the last fence in the men's open. Barbara's Bunny ran on the strongest for James Tarry, holding off Deep Tartan by half a length, with the favourite, Britway, conceding 7lb to the winner, the same distance away third, and The Froddler fourth.

Jenny Pidgeon displayed all the skill and timing which have earned her two championships in piloting the grey Zarajeff to victory in the ladies' open, a race she had won last year. Theresa Webber, who had taken the hunt race on White paper, was three lengths adrift on Brockie Law.

After gaining places on Lady Aubrey-Fletcher's Master Piece and Fada in the first two races at Mollington, Craig Pilgim dashed to Didmarton, where he proceeded to win the Beaufort maiden for Alex Mason on the unconsidered and hitherto unraced Penniless Bill. The Bush family scored a double in the two members' races, Nicky winning the traditional one on the hot favourite Rugamour and his brother Stephen the other on their father's, Ana Mendoza, after Giotta Fior had unseated his rider when leading at the last.

Though still jumping to the right, Sea Tangle gave Roy Barber an exhilerating ride in the North Norfolk Harriers' Audi Adjacent, winning unchallenged by seven lengths from Master Croft. Sea Tagle is definitely being aimed at the Audi final at Sandown, where the right-handed track will suit him.

The Audi adjacent at the Mid-Surrey Farmers Drag Hound was won easily by Leslie Vine's consistent No Justice, ridden by the South-East area chairman, John Hickman, who had three sons also riding at the meeting. Jacksway, 3-4 on for the RMC Group Ladies' could finish only fourth and was found to have broken a blood vessel. Underistoes (Sarah French) beat Linescar (Nicky Ledger) by a legth in a time of 6 min 25 sec. Mark's Methane (Bob Hacking) clocked the same time in the first Diners' Club open and Silent Burn (David Evatt) just held off the fast-finishing Fancy Fellow (Paul Hacking) in the second.

Edward Cazalet, master of the Drag Hounds, won the Members' Race Trophy, he himself had presented, with his wonderful old warrior Quilteven, ridden by Ann Blaker. Cazalet rode Quilteven to victory in the same race in 1980.

MOTOR RACING



Palmer is signed up

Dr Jonathan Palmer (above) was confirmed yesterday as the driver of another all-British Formula One grand prix challenger, the Ram-Hart, and will make his debut for the team at the Brazilian Grand Prix on March 25. (Jeremy Shaw writes).

Palmer, aged 27, sprang to prominence in 1981 when he dominated the British Formula Three championship. This earned him a testing contract for the Williams Formula One team, for whom be made his world championship debut in last September's European Grand Prix at Brands Hatch.

Palmer, who qualified as a doctor in 1980 joins a team receiving support from several British businessmen, among them the Americas' Cup challenger, Peter de Savary.

● The millionaire publisher Robert Maxwell is backing Andy Wallace, of Oxford, regarded as one of Britain's brightest hopes.

EQUESTRIANISM

Brother and sister vie for honours

By Jenny MacArthur

Britain's candidates for Olympic dressage selection will show how they have progressed during the winter at the British Horse Society's trials, sponsored by Dormit, which start today at the British Equestrian Centre, Stoneleigh. The shortlist will be announced at the end of the trials on Thursday.

Jennie Loriston-Clarke and Dutch Courage, Britain's top dressage combination, have been excused these trials. Mrs Loriston-Clarke said last week that she wants to get Dutch Courage fitter than usual this year because of the heat at Los Angeles and felt it would be too much to keep the horse at peak fitness from now until July.

In their absence Jane Wilson, withthe 15-year-old Pinocchio, and her brother Christopher Bartle, with Wily Trout are likely to vie for honours in Thursday's Grand Prix, the event which will decide the Olympic shortlist.

After these three horses the pecking order becomes less clear. Tanya Larrigan, with Salute, and Sarah, Whitmore, with Dutchman, were in the team from Aachen but other combinations are now knocking at the door. Among them are Lady Joicey with Powdermonkey, Alan Doxey with Majestic, and Fay Crouch with Gilda. A new face in this year's Grand Prix class is the reigning European three-day event champion, Rachel Bayliff, who is riding her eventer, Mystic Minstrel, at this level for the first time.

HOCKEY

Army cover nearly blown

By Sydney Friskin

Army 2
Royal Navy 1

After a hard struggle the Army beat the Navy in the Services championship at Aldershot yesterday to retain the Wilkinson Sword.

Extra quality in attack enabled the Army to gain 10 short corners but for all their territorial superiority they were clinging precariously to their advantage near the end when the revitalized Navy forwards came strongly back into contention. They had been almost eclipsed during the first half, when they conceded two goals.

The liveliest figure in the Army's front line was Jennings who besides scoring, had the ball in the net four more times and hit a post.

Jennings's hit from an early short corner was saved on the line by Hollington and another shot from open play soon after was stopped by the goalkeeper. The Army's persistence was rewarded in the thirty-second minute when Jennings scored off a centre from the right by Leighton. Five minutes later Roberts seized the ball from Worrell deep inside the circle and doubled the Army's lead with the goalkeeper out of position.

After the interval the Navy attacked more vigorously and were unlucky when Drury just failed to make contact with Spinks's hard centre from the right. The Army goalkeeper then saved from Drury and the Navy began to look much livelier. Once Spinks had scored for the Navy from a long corner, the Army were under mounting pressure but they just held out.

ARMY: Cpl P Misson (RAPC); Sgt C Peach (RAPC), Sgt S Dove-Dixon (RCT), Lt P Leighton (Green Howards), Capt C Wood (RE), Capt C Grossmith (RE, capt), Lt N Gordon (RA), Lt R Jolly (RA), L/Cpl I Jennings (Para), Lt A Scopes (RS), 2/Lt P Roberts (Royal Green Jackets).

ROYAL NAVY: LPT C Ward, PO B Henry, S/Lt T Jones (sub PO G Mather), Lt Cdr R Evans, Capt S Hollington (capt), L/Cdr M. Worrell, LWEM T Spinks, LCA N Eves, POPT S Richardson (sub PO R Newport), Lt M Drury. Umpire: WO M Rickets and Sgt J R C Patel (RAF).

SNOOKER

Davis turns his attention to Irish Masters

Steve Davis will be hoping to follow up his triumph in the Yamaha tournament at Derby on Sunday night, his third in the event in four years, by winning the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters tournament, which starts at Goffs, co Kildare, on March 27 (Sydney Friskin writes). Davis will make his first appearance there on March 30, in the quarter-final against either Jimmy White or Tony Meo.

The first round match, on March 28, between Eddie Charlton and Alex Higgins, should be interesting. The winner will earn a place in the quarter-finals against Ray Reardon.

For Dave Martin and John Dunning, who finished second and third to Davis on Sunday, the spotlight was all too brief.

FINAL: D Martin bt J Dunning, 3–2 (64–36, 61–40, 41–73, 77–30, 51–58); S Davis bt Dunning, 4–1 (38–70, 92–14, 71–38, 90–20, 98–35); Davis bt Martin, 3–0 (98–14, 77–67, 86–1).

CYCLING: The Frenchman, Patrice Thevenard broke clear 24 miles from the finish to win the Tour Du Sud race

TABLE TENNIS

Prean's chance to restore selectors' faith

The England selectors' decision to bring back Carl Prean for the last European Superleague match of the season against France at Guildford tonight suggests they may have forgiven him for declining to play in the English Open championship six weeks ago (a Special Correspondent writes).

Prean, who refused to play with the plastic ball, was promptly omitted from the first three names of the five men for the European championships squad. He needs a good performance tonight to get the vote for the second singles spot ahead of Graham Sandley, the man in possession.

As England can climb only one place to finish fourth if they beat the already relegated France, they have chosen Alison Gordon, aged 21, the England No 4, for her first singles appearance in the European league.

ENGLAND (from): D Douglas (Birmingham), G Sandley (Potters Bar), C Prean (Ryde, IOW), Miss A Gordon (Reading).
FRANCE (likely team): P Birocheau, P Renverse, C Martin, Miss B Thiriet, Miss N Davieud.

Sam Wrekin earns a rest

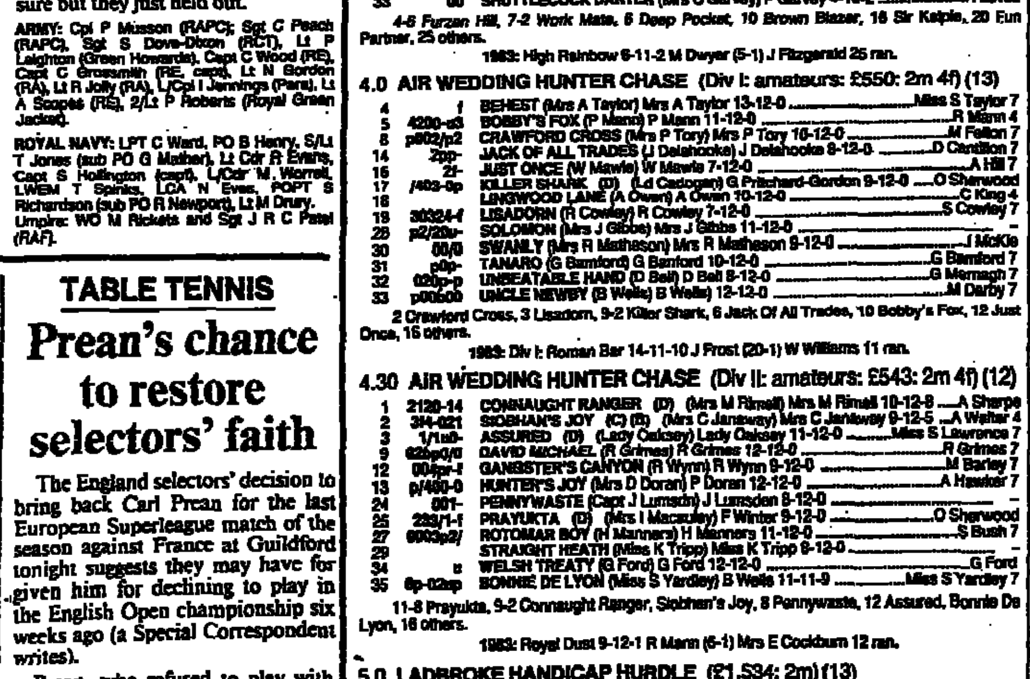
Sedgefield's biggest race of the season, the McEwans Scotch Durham National, has often proved a pointer to Aintree, with past winners Rubstic and Red Alligator triumphing there. But yesterday's eight-length winner, Sam Wrekin, will not run again this season.

Harry Bell, his trainer, said "He has done enough this season, but next year we have the Eider Chase and possibly the Scottish National lined up for him."

The amateur rider Michael Meagher, who partnered Sam Wrekin, has now had seven successes during his short career and five of them have been at this course.

Bush Guide, who led for much of the trip until caught four out by the winner, was confirmed as a definite runner for Aintree. "He ran really well and now goes for the Grand National. It is possible I could give him one more run at Newcastle on March 17," his trainer John Alder said.

Warwick



GOING: soft, with heavy.

2.0 WATERGALL NOVICE HURDLE (Div I: £828: 2m 5f) (25 runners)

1	0	AMBER SAY GO (G Cossey) J Roberts 5-11-2	C Brown
6	02	CHEVRON BLUE (A Budge Ltd) R Perkins 6-11-2	R Crank
7	3-00f33	FIRING PARTY (Shaikh Ali Abu Khamsin) F Winter 7-11-2	R Linley
8	100004-	HATTON LAD (Mrs M Titterton) Mrs M Titterton 8-11-2	–
10	00000p	HIGH SECURITY (G Lawrey) M Pipe 8-11-2	–
11	0000/0	ICOMB HOUSE (Mrs J Chadwick) Mrs J Chadwick 9-11-2	Lt-Col R Faulkner
14	0f-pou3	LAST OF THE FOXES (W Davies) N Twiston-Davies 11-11-2	S Morshead
15	0p0-00	MAN OF MARK (Mrs R Crossley) T Forster 5-11-2	Mr R Dunwoody 4

[illegible]

Windsor results

Going: Good

2.00 THAMES NOVICE HURDLE (Div 1: £706: 2m 30yd)

IL PONTEVECCHIO b c by Tumble Wind – Netherside (Mrs J Murray-Smith) 4-11-0 P Scudamore (2-1) 1
With a Little Bit ..... W Smith (20-1) 2
Towering ..... S Shilston (25-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £3.70. Places: £1.10, £2.90, £4.20. DF: £22.90. CSF: £42.49. D Murray-Smith ...

[illegible]

4.45 INGHAM HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,111: 2m 4f)

BORDER KNIGHT br g by Targowice – Bruntlaw (Mrs L Fraser) 9-10-8 R Lamb (4-1) 1
Mr Donelop ..... Mr P J Dun (8-1) 2
Gearys Cold Rolled ..... C Grant (7-1) 3

TOTE: Win: £4.00. Places: £2.40, £2.80, £4.90. DF: £15.70. CSF: £34.03. Tricast: £187.88. J Haldane at Kelso. 4l, 10l. Mountain Hays (7-1) 4th. Beisal (7-2 fav). 15 ran.

Folkestone

GOING: good to soft.

1.45 DEAL NOVICE HURDLE (£564: 2m 110yd) (17 runners)

1	234100	KASSAK (A Jones) P Ashworth 8-11-6	R Rowe
2	103001	LUCKY KNIGHT (B) (CD) (D Hunnisett) B Swift 4-11-5	R Campbell 4
3	4-0p000	BARTRA (F Hill) A Moore 6-10-13	G Moore
6	0-00000	BREEZE HILL (D Barling) A Moore 5-10-13	J Akehurst 4
8	044-0p0	CHARLIE KILGOUR (B) (A Spence) A Pitt 5-10-13	R Berry
10	3044	GILLIE'S PRINCE (Mrs E Mear) S Mear 5-10-13	Mr S Sherwood

[illegible]

2 Kevin Evans, 3 Navajo Brave, 5 Deep Moppet, 8 Petworth Park, 8 Rodney Parade, 10 Supper's Ready, Vagabond Victor, 12 others.

Warwick selections

By Michael Phillips

2.0 Firing Party. 2.30 Misty Fort. 3.0 Bonum Omen. 3.30 Furzen Hill. 4.0 Crawford Cross. 4.30 Prayukta. 5.0 Mountain Man.

Folkestone selections

By Michael Phillips

1.45 Waterhead, 2.15 Cold View, 2.45 Storm Prince, 3.15 Lakin, 3.45 Wily Yeoman, 4.15 Kevin Evans.

CRICKET

Willis sees the positive approach as an escape from shadow of Qadir

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Karachi

The history of Test matches in Pakistan shows them as being not only notoriously hard to win but almost as hard to lose. This was England's main source of encouragement on the rest day here yesterday as they contemplated the "fairly tight corner" (Bob Willis's words) in which they find themselves in the first of their three Test matches in Pakistan. With two days left for play and eight second-innings wickets in hand England are 41 runs behind.

Abdul's Qadir's shadow has settled on the England camp. "We must play him positively", Willis said, "and that is easier said than done." At least the thinking is right. Although, these days, English batsmen have little chance of playing against a top-class leg spinner, they usually find, after a while, ways and means of keeping one at bay. It is while they are working out a *modus operandi* that they are most vulnerable. This showed on Friday and Saturday, when they were being bowled out for 182 on what Willis described as having been a "400 pitch".

In Australia recently Qadir had a poor series. He attributes this partly to the difficulty he had there of gripping the ball. It can be the same, he says, in England. Because he sweats a lot he looks for convenient patches of dusty ground on which to brush, and so dry, his bowling hand. In Pakistan, but not in England or Australia, these are easily found.

It was also the case that in Australia he sometimes found himself having to bowl against as many as five left-handers in a single Test match – Wessels, Border, Phillips, Yallop and Marsh. Not even Bill O'Reilly, perhaps the greatest of all leg spinners, would have cared for that. To O'Reilly the left-handed Maurice Leyland was forever a thorn in the flesh. In Pakistan's five Test matches in Australia this winter Qadir took 12 wickets at 65 runs apiece. In Pakistan 18 months ago, against an Australian side containing only two left-handers, he took 22 wickets on three Test matches at 25 apiece.

The chances are that the series will be decided here in Karachi if Pakistan win – and that is the likeliest result the pitches will be so good for the remaining Tests that two draws, though not inevitable (even in Pakistan they are never *quite* that) will be highly probable. Pakistan could also be reinforced by then by Mudassar and Miandad. If England get away with a draw tomorrow, they will feel more comfortable playing Qadir in Faisalabad and Lahore. An English victory in this match would probably require a *tour de force* from Botham, and even then, Pakistan, under strength though they are, would have to bat uncommonly poorly to lose.

The pitch, though it will wear a little, is likely to disintegrate.


Willis: in tight corner

On Sunday evening Qadir seemed to be getting rather less out of it than on Saturday morning, but that may have been because the very heavy roller, asked for by Willis, had for the moment knocked all the stuffing out of it. Willis believes the best way to make the ball swing out here is not by shining it but to soak one side of it with sweat. The matches are being played with English balls and those used during the first three days did occasionally move in the air. Botham's general length might not have suggested it, but he always was a believer in the energetic long hop . . . or intended bouncer. It was, in fact, with two such that he took his wickets.

The weather is perfect, every day as cloudless as the one before, and with a breeze getting up after lunch. The only trouble about the breeze is that it raises the dust. While batting on Sunday – Smith was constantly needing to get the dust out of his eyes. The larger the crowd, of course, the more the dust flies; but that has not affected things here. The brightness reflected off the very white sightscreens and white stumps is also a factor and takes some getting used to. These things tend to be overlooked in the planning of whistle-stop tours.

I remember at the time of the Packer hearing in the High Court in London being mystified when, on Packer's behalf, it was said that capacity crowds invariably watched cricket in Pakistan. I have missed only the first of all England's tours here, yet the only occasions when I have seen full grounds have been for matches played away from the main centres, such as Shaiwal and Sialkot for one-day internationals. Attendances in Pakistan have never matched those in India. With riots threatened and Pakistan's cricket going through a difficult time not to mention the absence of Imran, Miandad and Mudassar, there was never the liklihood of big crowds for this first Test Match. even so, their size really has been ridiculous.

The National Stadium is, in fact, seven or eight miles from the city, and even law-abiding students would find it hard to penetrate the security. For the first time, too, a Test Match is being quite extensively televised. More than anything, though, I believe the current surfeit of Test cricket and the growth of the one-day interanational to be responsible for diminishing crowds.

One record Willis's side almost certainly could claim was that five days after their arrival in Pakistan they were all being given a clean bill of health. that was so, anyway, at the moment of writing. They have nothing worse than a few butterflies at the prospect of playing Qadir and perhaps a little home-sickness among those form whom runs, wickets and opportunities have been strictly limited. The reason for Gatting's dismissal in England's first innings, by the way, when he played inside a turning off break from Tauseef, was that he caught his bat in the top of his pads. That comes as an explaination, not an excuse.

SCORES: England 182 (D I Gower 58: Abdul Quadir 5 for 74, Sarfraz Nawaz 4 for 42) and 54 for 2; Pakistan 227 (Salim Malik 74, Mohsin Khan 64; N G B Cook 6 for 65).

Bourda pitch will have the last word

Georgetown (Reuter) – The chance of a definite reslt in the first Test match between West Indies and Australia here depends on the way the Bourda pitch plays on the last two days. The match resumes today with Australia 72 ahead and all second innings wickets in hand.

The pitch's character has changed from one innings to the next. The last batsman to fall victim to lift from the pitch was Greenidge. After his dismissal, at least three batsmen suffered from the ball keeping low.

SCORES: Australia 279 (K C Wessels 78, R M Hogg 52; J Garner 6 for 75; R A Harper 4 for 56) and 23 or 0; West Indies 230 (D L Haynes 44; T G Hogan 4 for 58).

● RADELLA: Rain restricted play in the New Zealanders' match against a Sri Lanka Cricket Control Board President's XI to only 90 minutes here yesterday.

PRESIDENT'S XI: First innings

s Wettimuny c Howarth b Chatfield	23
D S B Kuruppu c Coney b Crowe	7
S Wamalulasuriya not out	7
*R L Dias c Smith b Chatfield	0
A Ranatunga not out	0
Extras (l-b 1)	1
Total (3 wkts)	38

FALL OF WICKETS: 1–28, 2–38, 3–38.

NEW ZEALANDERS: *G P Howarth, †I D Smith, G A Edgar, M D Crowe, J V Coney, J F Reid, R J Hadlee, J G Bracewell, S L Boock, E J Chatfield, D A Sterling.

BOXING

Christie preparing case for challenge

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

Now that it looks as if Errol Christie, and not Mark Kaylor, will be boxing Bobby Rico Hoye, of Detroit, at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, London, on March 21, the Coventry middleweight will be out to prove once and for all that he is the man to challenge Kaylor for the British and Commonwealth titles.

Christie's connexions claim that since Terry Lawless considered Hoye a worthy opponent for Kaylor, ranked seventh in the world, and had asked Mike Barrett to book him for the Albert Hall, "there can be no questions or doubts raised as to Hoye's suitability. If he was a good enough opponent for Kaylor, then he must be a test for Christie."

Frank Warren, the promoter, is hoping that a good win over Hoye will go a long way to convincing the boxing board that Christie should be the man to challenge Kaylor.

It is more likely that the board will be watching Roy Gumbs as a likely opponent for the British and Commonwealth champion from West Ham. Gumbs has returned from a back operation, and says that he is ready to box anyone, especially Kaylor, who relieved him of the titles. Gumbs faces an American, Lindell Holmes, on the same bill.

Mr Warren's third middleweight championship hope, Jimmy Price, of Liverpool, keeps his claim up to date with a bout against Stacey McSwain, of New York, at the Afan Lido, Aberavon, on March 28.

The main event on the bill is, of course, the meeting of Colin Jones, Wales's world No 2, and Allan Braswell, of the United States.

● Stewart Lithgo, of Hartlepool, is lined up for the Commonwealth cruiserweight championship (the Press Association reports). At a recent meeting in London, the Commonwealth Championships Committee decided to adopt the cruiserweight division and nominated five as eligible to box for it. Lithgo meets the Australian former light-heavyweight, Steve Axcel, in Brisbane, on May 14.

VOLLEYBALL

Spark out to upset rivals in Mikasa Cup

By Paul Harrison

Hillingdon Ladies, the champions, ended their league programme with a 3-0 defeat of their closest rivals, Sparks, at the weekend. Barry Swann, the Spark coach said afterwards: "Hillindon are a better team than us. You really have to catch them on a off day and then play well yourselves

It will be an exceptional achievement, therefore, is Spark upset Hillingdon in the Mikasa Cup finals on April 29.

Hillingdon's coach, Peter Stringer, thought their performance in the last half of the game was the best Hillingdon had played all season. They trailed 13-2 in the second set but recovered to win 15-13.

They hope for European competition next season and are seeking sponsorship. Hillingdon tried to enter Europe this season, but the English Volleyball Association prevented them from doing so, because a loan had not been repaind. It since has.

TENNIS


Miss Navratilova: agility, strength, racket control

Paris clay supreme test for world No 1

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, New York

The second-best player in the world, Chris Lloyd, has taken only two sets from her last nine matches with Martina Navratilova. That is a measure of Miss Navratilova's supremacy. After Sunday's final of the Viginia Slims championships at Madison Square Garden, Miss Navratilova said her next task was to do something she had never done before: beat Mrs Lloyd on clay.

Miss nnavratilova has won only one set from their eight matches on clay, all played from 1973 to 1981. Clay is the surface on which Miss Navratilova, like John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors, is least at ease. It has begun to dominate her thinking: because of that blank record against Mrs Lloyd, because Miss Navratilova was beaten in the fourth round of last year's supreme clay-court test, the French championships, and because the next trip to Paris presents her with a cahnce to complete grand slams in both singles and doubles.

In more then 15 months Miss Navratilova has been beaten only three times. On Sunday she defeated Mrs Lloyd 6-3, 7-5, 6-1 in an hour and 53 minutes in the first woman's final for 82 years to be decided over the best of five sets. "I played a good, two-set match," Mrs Lloyd said later. "In the third set I was a bit down mentally."

No wonder. Mrs Lloyd had given one of her finest and most vigorous performances for years but was two sets down to a younger, stronger and better player. Something must have died within her because victory had become a hope without substance. The word "vigorous" is particularly opposite. Miss Navratilova considered this was the "most physical" of their 57 matches and she was probaly right. Clearly, neither was apprehensive about the possibility of playing five sets.

Their superb match was illuminated by the uncommon ferocity of Mrs Lloyd's ground strokes and the agility, strength and racket control with which Miss Navratilova boldly met the challenge. The quality of her volleying and half-volleying may never have been surpassed by a woman. Miss Navratilova was awesome. She considered this the best tennis she has ever played against Mrs Lloyd. For two sets, it had to be.

Miss Navratilova said that playing three out of five sets would reduce the chance of upsets and make it more difficult for anyone to beat her. She thought it might be feasible from quarter-finals onwards but added that further experiment was desirable first. Sunday's example was obviously successful in giving the public more value for money and providing the woman's tour with a distinctive climax.

Miss Navratilova, whose singles prize was a record, won a total of £100,340 from a tournament that produced enthralling tennis and broke two crowd records for a women's event: Sunday's 15,309 and the six-day total of 78,577.

Finally, it must be doubted if the television commentaries have ever been excelled in their analysis of players and play. In every way the championships provided a feast of tennis – and made a little history in the process.

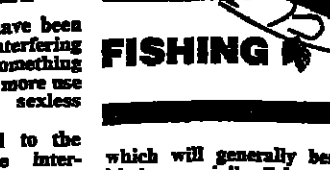
THIRD PLACE: P Shriver (US) bt B Potter (US), 6–4, 7–6.

Olympic umpire

Malcolm Huntington, of York, who umpired last year's men's singles final at Wimbledon, had been appointed chief umpire for this year's exhibition tournament at the Los Angeles Olympic Games. He will be the only British umpire there

No sex please, we're British rainbows

By Conrad Voss Bark



The genetic engineers have been at it again; not this time interfering with sheep and goats but something we are told will be of much more use to mankind: creating sexless rainbows.

By some complex, and to the layman, incomprehensible interference with chromosomes, known only to hatchery men in their darkened rooms, only sexless rainbows and female rainbows will be stocked in Britain's largest trout fishery at Rutland Water next year. The only males left in existence will be a few fish in special breeding cages who will have nothing to do except produce more and more sperm.

The news comes from an article by Steve Windsor in the March issue of *Trout Fisherman* magazine. The sexless rainbows, known as triploid fish, come originally from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries research centre at Weymouth. Now Rutland Water hatchery, which is probably the biggest in England, is producing them in hundreds, shortly in thousands.

Rainbows unpreoccupied with sex are said to be brighter and more cheerful and will put on more weight than frustrated males, and will be in better condition all the year round, which will generally benefit mankind, especially fishery managers, fishery accountants, and fishermen. All this may well be true.

At the same time, sentimental though it may be, one cannot help feeling a little sorry for the rainbow. They did not want to come to this country in the first place. They do not like England. They never did. They breed naturally and prolifically in America but when they were imported here in the 1880s they stopped breeding altogether. Well, almost.

According to a survey some 10 years ago by Dr Winifred Frost, for the Salmon and Trout Association, of the 500 waters holding rainbows in this country in any five do rainbows breed naturally. The other 495 waters, which incidentally include some of the famous chalk streams, have to be stocked from fish farms. Why this reluctance to breed, even in the most beautiful of our rivers? No one knows. Some kind of a resistance movement?

GOLF

Sunningdale hosts 1987 Walker Cup

By Mitchell Platts

The Royal and Ancient have broken with tradition by selecting Sunningdale as the venue for the Walker Cup match in 1987. Great Britain and Ireland will meet the United States on an inland course for the first time since the bi-annual match was instituted in 1922. It will take place on the Old Course on May 27 to 28.

The Amateur Championship, which will be played the following week on June 1 to 6, is to return to Prestwick for the first time since 1952.

Gordon Jeffrey, chairman of the Royal and Ancient championship committee, says: "The decision to take the Walker Cup to Sunningdale does not reflect any change in policy. The course is in the right place and it plays more like a links than an inland course".

It is an interprising decision and with the course in close proximity to London it will be interesting to see the response of the public in supporting the Walker Cup, which has been dominated by the Americans.

Bean submits to Lietzke's rally

Coral Springs, Florida (Reuter) – Bruce Lietzke made up four shots on the third-round leader, Andy Bean, to beat him on the first hole of a sudden-death play-off on Sunday to win the $500,000 Honda Classic

Lietzke tapped in a two-foot putt on the first extra hole to win $90,000

FINAL SCORES: (US unless stated): 280: B Leitzke, 72, 70, 70, 68: A Bean, 69, 71, 68, 72. 281: J C Snead, 68, 71, 72, 70. 282: M McCumber, 77, 67, 66, 72. 283: J Sindelar, 70, 73, 70, 70. 284: G Koch, 74, 74, 66, 70; J Colbert, 73, 68, 71, 72; T Nakajima (Jap), 70, 71, 70, 73. 285: F Couples, 75, 71, 70, 69; P Hancock, 71, 71, 73, 70. 286: D Barr (Can), 75, 69, 71, 71; N Faldo (GB), 79, 68, 67, 72; W Levi, 75, 70, 68, 73. Other GB score: 289: P Oosterhuis, 73, 74, 69, 73.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL
7.30 unless stated

Third division
Bristol Rovers v Rotherham
Hull City v Bournemouth
Newport Co v Wimbledon
Orient v Bolton Wand
Plymouth Arg v Brentford
Preston NE v Burnley (7.45)
Sheffield United v Oxford
Walsall v Scunthorpe
Wigan v Millwall

Fourth division
Bury v Torquay
Doncaster v Bristol City
Mansfield v Wrexham
Swindon v Northampton
York City v Crewe Alex
Darlington v Blackpool – postponed

Scottish premier division
St Johnstone v Rangers

Scottish first division
Brechin v Hamilton

Scottish second division
Cowdenbeath v Forfar Athletic
Queen's Park v Montrose
Stenhousemuir v East Stirling
Stirling Albion v East Fife

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barking v Billericay; Slough v Bognor; Tooting & Mitcham v Wokingham; Walthamstow Ave v Croydon. First division: Cheshunt v Feltham; Hampton v Boreham Wood; Leatherhead v Woking; Maidenhead v Wembley; Windsor and Eton v Oxford City. Second division: Corinthian Casuals v Newbury; Finchley v Southall; Grays v Tring; Horsham v Egham; Rainham v Basildon.
ATHENIAN LEAGUE: Berkhamsted v Harefield; Burnham v Thatcham; Fleet v Camberley; Haringey v Hoddesdon; Kingsbury v Whyteleafe.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Southern division: Andover v Thanet; Salisbury v Basingstoke.
MIDWEEK LEAGUE CUP (2.00): Cambridge United v Southend.
MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP: Semi-final replay: Uxbridge v Wembley.
ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Bangor City v Altrincham; Barnet v Wealdstone.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Dartford v Fisher Athletic; Welling United v Corby.
CENTRAL LEAGUE: First Division: Derby v Aston Villa (7.0); Everton v Blackburn (7.0); Leeds v Burnley.
CENTRAL LEAGUE: Division Two: Oldham v Wolverhampton (7); Rotherham v Bradford City (7.0).
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Birmingham v Millwall (2); Brighton v Luton (7.15); Chelsea v Swansea (2.15); Fulham v Tottenham (2.0); Queen's Park Rangers v Leicester (2.0); Watford v Crystal Palace.

RUGBY UNION
Llanelli v Penarth (7.0); Newbridge v Neath (7.0).

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Company Lawyer

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Candidates should write, enclosing a comprehensive curriculum vitae to Nigel Hopkins, FCA, quoting ref. 996, at P.O. Box 143, 31 *Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HY.*

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Further details concerning the post may be obtained by telephoning Mr D L Spicer on Nottingham (0602) 823823, Ext 3117.

Written applications by letter enclosing a curriculum vitae should be addressed to the Clerk of the County Council and Chief Executive at County Hall. Closing date 23 March. Please quote ref 123.

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Please send details to John Llewellyn-Davies, Personnel Manager at International Computers Limited, ICL House, Putney London SW15 1SW (telephone: 01-788 7272 ext. 2666).

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Comprehensive CV, stating present salary, should be sent to J L Clark, Confederation of British Industry, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU.

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Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. St James 4: 8.

BIRTHS

DEATHS

EDWARDS JOHN MAURICE - On March 4, 1984, at Midhurst, Sussex. Beloved husband of Kate.

GIGLIOLI. - On March 3rd, at Mount Sinai Hospital, Miami, Doctor Marco Enrico Clifton Giglioli, OBE, aged 56, director Mosquito Research and Control Unit, Cayman Islands, West Indies, husband of Jean and father of George and Maria.

GILLESPIE - On 29th February, 1984, peacefully at Ashford Hospital, Alistair (Chris) (formerly Robin Payer) of 43a Gresham Rd, Staines, aged 83. Funeral on Friday, 9th March, Service at 12.30, St Peter's Church, Staines, followed by interment at Staines Cemetery. Enquiries and flowers to Lodge Brothers (Funerals) Ltd., 4 Clarendon Rd., Ashford, Middlesex. Tel: Ashford 52226.

GLASS.-On March 3rd 1984 at Paxhill Park, Lindfield, Amy aged 93, formerly of Hill Brow, Uckfield, Sussex and Madras, India. Mother of Stuart Glass of Birmingham, Alambama, USA. Funeral service at All Saints' Church, Lindfield, Sussex, on Thursday March 8th at 11am. Followed by cremation. Enquires to Masters & Son Lindfield 2107.

GOODLIFFE. - On March 3rd 1984, peacefully, Wilfred George, of 282 Leigham Court Road, Streatham SW16, a loving husband, father and grandfather. Funeral service at All Saints, Beulah Hill SE19, on Monday, March 12th at 2.30pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to the Christ Church Vicarage, Highland Road SE19.

GRAY. - On March 3rd, 1984, peacefully, in a nursing home, Dorothy Margaret Gray, aged 98, widow of Colonel A. C. H. Gray, OBE RAMC, dearly loved mother of Anne, Jock and Winks and adored by her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral service at Christ Church, South Nutfield, on Monday, March 12th at 2.30pm. No flowers by request but donations, if desired, may be sent to the Vicar, St James's Church, Nayland, near Colchester, Essex.

HOGG- George Maxwell on March 4 peacefully in a Nursing Home in his 88th year, beloved husband of Ruby Elizabeth and dear Uncle of Jean and Judy. Cremation private. Family flowers only. Please no letters.

INDIG - On March 3rd, peacefully at home Dr Edith Clara, deeply mourned by her family and many friends. Cremation at Golders Green on Friday March 9th at 11am. Flowers may be sent to the West Chapel at the crematorium.

JACKSON - On March 3rd, at Haslemere, peacefully in her sleep, Gladys, formerly of Crownpits Corner, Godalming. Funeral midday Tuesday, 13th March, at Guildford Crematorium.

LAM Basil Raymond - On March 4th in hospital, Basil Raymond Lam, aged 69.

MARRIAGES

DEATHS

MEMORIAL SERVICES

WANTED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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NOTICE is hereby given that the annual general meeting of shareholders will be held on Thursday, 22nd March, 1984 at 14.30 hours at the offices of the company, Keizersgracht 674, Amsterdam.
Shareholders wishing to attend the general meeting of the company must deposit their shares not less than seven

هكذا من الأصل

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax AM.

6.30 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. News from Debbie Rix at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; television preview at 6.55; a review of the morning papers at 7.18 and 8.18; exercises at 7.25; horoscopes at 8.33; food and cooking and financial advice between 8.30 and 9.00.

9.00 Craft of the Weaver. The first of five programmes in which leading handweavers demonstrate their techniques (r). 9.25 Ceefax, 10.30 Play School, presented by Ben Thomas (r). 10.55 Ceefax.

12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Frances Coverdale. The weather prospects come from Michael Fish. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only: Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles). 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Music and conversation from the foyer of the Birmingham studios. 1.45 Chock-a-Block. A See-Saw programme for the very young (r).

2.00 Caught in Time presented by James Cameron. Lady Rose McLaren explains a home movie made in 1934 by her father, the Marquess of Anglesey, ridiculing the Blackshirt movement (r).

2.20 Film: This Man is Mine* (1934) starring Irene Dunne as the wife who has to protect her husband from the wicked machinations of his former fiancée. Directed by John Cromwell.

3.35 Cartoon: Barnyard Babies. 3.48 Regional news (not London). 3.50 Magic Roundabout (r). 3.55 Play School, presented by Elizabeth Watts. 4.20 Cartoon: Laurel and Hardy. 4.25 Jackanory. 4.40 Charlie Brown. Cartoon (r). 5.05 John Craven's Newsround. 5.10 Treasure Houses. Mark Curry at Selbourne the home of country parson, Gilbert White. 5.35 The Wombles (r).

5.40 Sixty Minutes includes news at 5.40 from Moira Stuart: weather at 5.54; regional news magazines at 5.55; news headlines at 6.38.

6.40 Harty. His guests are Susan George, Mr Universe (Jeff King) and Dr John Nicholson.

7.10 The District Nurse. Episode nine and Megan, stung by the barrage of complaints about her, decides to leave Pencwm for a few days.

7.40 A Question of Sport. A test of sporting knowledge between one team led by Bill Beaumont, another by Emlyn Hughes.

8.10 Dallas. Sue Ellen goes on a shopping spree in Jenna's boutique while J. R. continues with his plan to cause the commercial downfall of Cliff Barnes (Ceefax titles page 170).

9.00 News with Sue Lawley.

9.25 Play for Today: Moving on the Edge, by Rose Tremain. The story of middle-aged Camilla, a wife and mother who has an arid relationship with her husband and cannot communicate with her daughter. Starring Eleanor Bron (see Choice).

10.30 Film: The Power Play (1976) starring Raymond Burr as an investigative journalist who is given the job of examining the reasons behind a newspaper's change of editorial policy in regard to nuclear power. His searches reveal blackmail, murder and a megalomaniac's plan to dominate the world. Directed by Robert Day.

12.05 News headlines and weather.

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain presented by John Stapleton and Anne Diamond. News from Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.35 and 7.35; consumer affairs at 6.40 and 8.45; exercises at 6.50 and 9.15; the day's odd anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.05; a guest in the Spotlight at 7.20; cartoon at 7.25; guest of the day Timothy West, at 7.40; pop music news at 7.50; Ideal Home Exhibition preview at 8.10; video report at 8.35; baby talk at 9.05.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines. 9.30 For Schools: Simple arithmetic. 9.45 Talking about the past 10.04 A visit to a colliery. 10.21 German conversation. 10.43 Evolution. 11.08 Creative ways of using leisure. 11.25 A visit to two ice cream factories. 11.38 The Pompidou Centre in Paris.

12.00 Cockleshell Bay. Seaside adventure of the Cockle twins. 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets (r). 12.30 The Sullivans.

1.00 News. 1.20 Thames news. 1.30 A Plus. 2.00 Crown Court: Mother Figures. Did Stephen Hodges really assault Jacqueline Coombs or were her injuries caused by slipping on icy steps?

2.30 Comedy Tonight. How minority groups are depicted in comedy. 3.00 Mr and Mrs. Quiz game for married couples. 3.30 Miracles Take Longer.

4.00 Cockleshell Bay. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 Batfink. 4.20 On Safari. Christopher Biggins and guests Anneka Rice and Brian Cant tackle studio jungle obstacles. 4.45 CBTV. 5.15 Emmerdale Farm.

5.45 News 6.00 Thames news.

6.20 Help! Viv Taylor Gee examines the role of the ten year old Gay Switchboard.

6.30 Crossroads. The news is leaked that Paul Ross is a father.

6.55 Reporting London presented by Michael Barratt investigates the organisations behind London's illegal flyposting business.

7.30 Name That Tune. Fast moving musical quiz presented by Tom O'Connor.

8.00 The Sweeney. Regan and Carter are on the trail of a missing professor who has been researching into a new miracle heart drug. Their investigations include questioning Morecambe and Wise whose photograph was found in the home of the missing man (r).

9.00 The Jewel in the Crown: An Evening at the Maharanee's. Episode ten and Colonel Layton has been released from prison camp and is welcomed by Sarah in Bombay. Also in that city is Military Intelligence sergeant, Guy Perron who becomes part of the web of intrigue spun by Ronald Merrick (Oracle titles page 170).

10.00 News.

10.30 First Tuesday. Families Who Wait concerns the battle by two families to be reunited with their children who have been taken into care. Aunt Annie's Bomb Factory wonders whether or not justice was done when seven people were sent to prison following the IRA bombing campaign in 1974 (see Choice).

11.30 Levkas Man. Episode three of the drama about a man searching for his missing father.

12.25 Night Thoughts from Baroness Lane-Fox.

Eleanor Bron: Moving on the Edge (BBC1 9.25 pm)

CHOICE

● Two documentaries questioning the fairness of British justice comprise this month's edition of FIRST TUESDAY (ITV 10.30 pm). The first, Families Who Wait, tells the story of the fight by two families to have their children returned to them by the councils who took the children into care. Malcolm and Lindsey placed their son in council care a few months after he was born because of Lindsey's severe post-natal depression. That was four years ago and now the little boy has a younger brother and sister. The family is a stable one but the council refuses to give the child back to his parents. To his eternal credit, Malcolm has refused to accept the decision, even when he lost an appeal in the High Court, and has taken the case to the European Commission on Human Rights. Linda is not so fortunate, she had four of her five children taken into care after her husband battered her and eventually assaulted one of the children. Now divorced, she has tried in vain to gain access to her children, but the court refuses permission. The second documentary, Aunt Annie's Bomb Factory, casts doubt on the expert evidence that brought the conviction of an Irish family for handling nitroglycerine, following the 1974 IRA bomb outrages in England. Lord Pitt and Sir John Biggs-Davison are convinced that justice has not been done and both are actively campaigning for a re-trial. Something, certainly from the evidence of the documentary, that would seem long overdue.

● Camilla, the character created by Rose Tremaine in her play, MOVING ON THE EDGE (BBC1 9.25 pm), certainly doesn't enlist the viewer's sympathy. Beautifully played by the striking Eleanor Bron, Camilla gives the impression of being a spoilt child rather than an adult mother. Comfortably off, with a successful husband, she mopes around cultivating a middle-age crisis that bemuses her husband and surprises her eccentric mother. A tearful encounter with her former lover, a florid Irishman, seems to bring her to her senses somehow, something to feel glad about if only for the sake of her long-suffering husband. Gary Raymond plays the anguished husband, Michael, with commendable restraint with Rosalie Crutchley as Camilla's lobster-stealing mother, Laura. T. P. McKenna completes the star-studded cast as the libidinous Liam, Camilla's former lover.

BBC 2

6.05 Open University: Modern Arts: Monet. 6.30 Sources of Power. 6.55 Biology. 7.45 Acceleration at Constant Speed? Ends at 8.10.

9.00 Ceefax.

9.09 Daytime on Two: German conversation. 9.26 Maths: scale. 9.48 Mathscore One. 10.10 Look and read. 10.35 Japan. 11.00 Life in a castle. 11.17 Walrus. 11.40 English. 12.05 David Bellamy with Harvests and Hay Days. 12.35 The grey youth of Japan. 1.05 Maths: mirrors. 1.19 Electromagnetic spectrum. 1.40 A day at the seaside. 2.00 You and Me. 2.15 British social history: from sail to steam.

2.40 Ceefax

5.10 Sounds of Language. An Open University production that examines the reasons why and how we are able to produce different sounds.

5.35 News summary with subtitles.

5.40 That Was the Year. Chris Serle takes a modern look at the year 1666 when first the great plague wreaked havoc, then the great fire of London.

6.10 Junior Kick Start. Heat three of the Lombard Tricity Trophy (r).

6.35 Cartoon Two: The Clever Village.

6.40 Tucker's Luck. The final episode of the drama serial about out-of-work teenager (r).

7.10 Travellers in Time. Duncan Carse introduces the 1934-made King of the Sun, the story of one stage of a round the world expedition mounted by an American team. The film begins with their arrival in Colombo and ends with a meeting with the emperor of Abyssinia (r).

7.40 Top Gear. William Woollard reports on a scheme developed by Nottinghamshire police whereby drivers are not automatically prosecuted if found with a faulty car.

8.10 Timewatch throws new light on the Charge of the Light Brigade; Britain's fear that the Korean War would develop into a global atomic conflict; and reviews Sir Arthur Bryant's latest book.

9.00 Alas Smith and Jones. The last programme of the funny, off-beat series starring Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones.

9.30 Your Life in Their Hands. The story of five-year-old Vicky Aldridge's fight to conquer her arthritis from which she has suffered since the age of three.

10.00 Arena: The Caravaggio Conspiracy. How former Sunday Times journalist, Peter Watson, conned the crooks of the art world.

11.00 Newsnight.

11.45 Open University: Calculus: The Binomial Theorem; 12.10 Systems: The National Theatre. Ends at 12.40.

CHANNEL 4

4.45 Night Beat News. More comedy from the hopeless television news company.

5.15 Years Ahead. Magazine programme for the older viewer, presented by Robert Dougall. there is a film on the problems of making a benefit claim; Molly Wright of East Lothian has been investigating her family tree; actress Elizabeth Sellars talks to Mary Hodges about her role in the Channel 4 drama series, Winter Sunlight, in which she plays a woman coming to terms with growing old; and in the archive spot there is a 1926 film of an ingenious oven timer.

6.00 Bewitched. Vintage American comedy series about a mere mortal man with a witch wife and a sorceress mother-in-law.

6.30 Cautionary Tales. Part two: Violence in the Home. Solicitor Bernard Simmons illustrates with the case histories of three women, that there is no need for a woman to put up with violence from the man she lives with. Courts have the power to put an end to the maltreatment and the three women concerned offer some practical advice.

7.00 Channel Four News includes a report on the first testing in Britain of the type of containers used to transport nuclear waste.

7.50 Comment. With his personal view of a matter of topical importance is Philip Circus, a barrister and legal adviser to the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising.

8.00 Brookside. Harold takes it upon himself to be the Close matchmaker and tries to further the friendship between Alan and Heather. At the Grant's Damon is in disgrace over his birthday escapade while Karen is made to feel a fool over her stand for vegetarian school meals.

8.30 Tom Keating on Impressionism. In the fourth of his six-part series the late Tom Keating demonstrates the techniques of Renoir.

9.00 Film: The Garden of the Finzi-Contini (1971) starring Dominique Sanda. The Oscar-winning drama about a wealthy, aristocratic, Jewish family living in the Italy of Mussolini in 1938. Based on the prize-winning novel by Giorgio Bassani and directed by Vittorio De Sica.

10.45 Eastern Eye. Magazine programme for Britain's Asian communities. Tonight's edition includes interviews with Geraldine James, one of the stars of Jewel in the Crown and Gandhi, who is writing a book about India and Sneh Gupta who was in The Far Pavilions and has just returned from India where she has been filming Kim.

11.40 Closedown.

Radio 4

5.00 News Briefing; Weather.
6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Shipping Forecast.
6.30 Today, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News Summary. 6.45 Prayer for the Day. 6.55, 7.55 Weather. 7.00 8.00 Today's News. 7.20 Your Letters. 7.25 8.25 Sport. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.57 Weather, Travel.
9.00 News.
9.05 Tuesday Call: 01-580 4411. The subject today is weddings. With Sandra Boler of Brides magazine.
10.00 News; From Our Own Correspondent.
10.30 Morning Story: "Tanks for the Memory" by Ian campbell. Read by Iain Agnew.
10.45 Daily service.
11.00 News, Travel; Thirty Minute Theatre. 'The Purple Suit' by Robert McFarlane. With Jonathan Watson and Kirsty Miller†(r).
11.33 Wildlife.
12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer advice.
12.27 Legal Decent, Honest and Truthful. Comedy series about an advertising agency.†. 12.55 Weather; Programme news.
1.00 The World at One: News.
1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping forecast.
2.00 News; Woman's Hour. Sally Feldman on sugar, and the role it has played in our cultural history.
3.00 News; Afternoon Theatre: 'Plain Jane and the Joker' by Alan England. With Bernard Gallagher. A man plans a Transactional Analysis holiday†.
4.00 News; Just After Four. Lys de Bray in the winter garden.
4.10 The Boat People – All at Sea? John Forsyth asks whether the humanitarian settlement policy for the 16,000 Vietnamese boat people who came to Britain, is turning sour.
4.40 Story Time: 'Vera' by Elizabeth Von Arnium (7). Read by June Barrie.
5.00 PM: News magazine 5.50 Shipping forecast. 5.55 Weather; Programme news.
6.00 The six O'Clock News; Financial Report.
6.30 Don't Stop Now – It's Fundation. A non-stop cabaret show†(r).
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Medicine Now. A report on the health of medical care.
7.50 File On 4.
8.20 Shanghai Morning. 'The Christians begin again in China'. Rosemary Hartill looks at the church in China. Ten years ago, it was suffering badly, but 1,500 churches have now been reopened.
9.05 In Touch. Magazine for the visually handicapped.
9.30 In My Young Days. Recollections by Stephen Humphries of working-class childhood. Tonight: schooldays.
9.45 Kaleidoscope. Includes the Pre-Raphaelite exhibition at the Tate.
10.15 A Book At Bedtime: "Irish Journal" by Heinrich Boll (2). Read by John Rowe.
10.30 The World Tonight.
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News. 12.10 Weather. 12.15 Shipping Forecast. 12.23-12.28 The Chip Shop with Barry Norman.

England VHF with 1f above except: 6.25-6.30am Weather: Travel. 10.45-12.00 For Schools: 10.45 The Song Tree. 11.00 Time and Tune. 11.20 Time to Move. 11.40 Listen and Read. 11.55 Reading Music. 1.55 Listening Corner. 2.00-3.00 For Schools: 2.00 History: Not So Long Ago. 2.20 Introducing Science Extra: Junior Electronics. 2.40 Pictures in Your Mind (stories). 5.50-5.55 PM (continued). 11.00 Study On 4: The Chip Shop with Barry Norman. 11.30-12.00 Open University: 11.30 Open Forum: Students' Magazine. 11.50 Music Interlude. 12.30-1.10 Schools Night-time Broadcasting: 12.30 Lifetime: Divorce in a Family. 12.50 Lifetime: A Handicapped child in a Family.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: part one. Stravinsky's Concerto in D for string orch; Bach's Brandenberg Conc No 4; Vaughan Williams's The Vagabond: Let beauty awake (Songs of Travel) sung by John Shirley-Quirk; and Rubbra's Improvisations on Virginal Pieces by Giles Farnaby.18.00 News.
8.05 Morning Concert: part two. MacCunn's overture Lord of the Mountain and Flood; Saint-Saens's Piano Conc No 4 (Peter Donohoe/Peter Fowke/City of Birmingham SO).19.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Hans Werner Henze. Christoph Eschenbach with London Phil Orch play the Piano Conc No 2.†
10.00 BBC Singers: works by Elgar, Vaughan Williams (Sweet Day), William Harris, Parry (My soul, there is a country) and Stanford (On time).†
10.30 Brahms: The LSO play the Serenade in D, Op 11.†
11.20 French Songs: recital by John Elwes (tenor) with Clifford Benson as his accompanist. Works by Saint-Saens, Fauré, and Duparc. The Fauré works include his Après un rêve, and Le papillon et la fleur.†
12.15 Midday Concert: part one. BBC Scottish SO, with Sheila Armstrong (soprano) Haydn's Symph No 70; Mozart's Concert area Vado, ma dove? O Dei, K 583; and Haydn's Cantata: Berenice, che Fai?†1.00 News.
1.05 Midday Concert: part two. Bartok's Hungarian Pictures; and Kodaly's Variations on an Hungarian folk song (The Peacock).†
1.50 Intabolatura da Leuto: Christopher Wilson (lute) performs works by Peltro Paulo Borrono, Francesco da Milano, Albert de Rippe, and Hans Newsidler.†
2.15 Houston Symphony Orchestra: with Radu Lupu (piano). Salieri's overture Axur, re d'Ormus; Mozart's Piano Conc No 18; Ravel's La Valse; Pavane pour une infante défunte; Second set of Symphonic Fragments: Daphnis and Chloe – all by Ravel.†
3.40 Telemann: Frans Bruggen and Quadro Hottetterre play the Quartet in D Minor.†
4.00 Leslie Howard: piano recital of Beethoven works. Minuet in E flat WoO 82; Bafatelle in C WoO 56; Klavierstuck in A minor, WoO 59; Sonata in B flat, Op 106.†4.55News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure: Another of Roger Nichols's selections.†
6.30 The Mirror of Narcissus: Gothic Voices in songs by Guillaume de Machaut.†
7.00 The Green Knight: Dr Roger Pooley, of Keele University, pays tribute to George Gascoigne, the Elizabethan poet.
7.30 BBC Philharmonic Concert: with Rudolf Firkusny (piano). Part one. Mozart's Serenata Notturna in D, K 239; and Henze's Symph No 4.†
8.10 Russian Service: John Shrapnel reads the final part of Zinovy Zinik's novel about a Moscow clerk who defects to London.
8.30 BBC Philharmonic Concert: part two. Brahms's Piano Concerto No 1.†
9.30 BBC Northern Singers: 30th Birthday Concert. From the Queen Elizbeth Hall, in London. Conducted by Stephen Wilkinson, with Keith Swallow at the piano. Selections from Schumann, Cornelius, Elizabeth Maconchy, Bridge, Moeran, Parry, Stanford, Vaughan Williams and Holst. There is an interval reading at 10.15.
11.15 News. Until 11.18.

Medium Frequency: medium wave: 7.30-11.40 am Cricket: First Test. Pakistan versus England: commentary on the fourth day's play in Karachi. VHF only: Open University. 6.35-6.55 Bias and Judgment; 11.20 pm Irong and Tom Jones; 11.40-12.00 Artists and Antiquity.

Radio 2

News on the hour. Major Bulletins: 7.00 am, 8.00, 1.00 pm, 5.00 and 12.00 midnight; News Headlines: 5.30 am, 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30 (MF/MW). 4.00 am Bill Rennells.† 5.30 Ray Moore† Incl. 6.02 Cricket. 7.30 Terry Wogan† Incl. 8.31 Racing Bulletin. 9.02 Cricket. 10.00 Jimmy Young† Incl. 10.02; 11.02 Cricket. 12.00 pm Steve Jones† Incl. 12.02Cricket. 1.05 Sport. 2.00 Gloria Hunniford† Incl. 2.02; 3.02 Sport. 3.30 Music all the way.† 4.00 David Hamilton† Incl. 4.02; 5.05 Sport. 6.00 Paul Heiney† Incl 6.02 Sport 6.45 Sport and Classified Results (mf only). 8.00 The Golden Age of Hollywood (s) A history of the American movie (18) 1951-54, Spotlight on the MGM musical. Narrated by James Mason. 9.00 Night Owls† with Dave Gelly. 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.00 Hubert Gregg. Second of 12 programmes on special people in entertainment. 2: Cole Porter (Part 2). 11.00 Brian Matthew presents Round Midnight (stereo from midnight). 1.00am Patrick Lunt presents Nightride,† incl 3.00 Big Band Special† incl 3.30-4.00 String Sound†

Radio 1

News on the half-hour from 6.30am until 9.30pm and then at 12.00 midnight (MF/MW). 6.00am Adrian John. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Radio 1 in East Anglia. Day 2: Today Mike Smith and Peter Powell visit Kings Lynn, including 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.00pm Steve Wright. 4.30 Radio 1 in East Anglia, including 5.30 Newsbeat. 7.00 David Jensen. 10.00-12.00 John Peel† VHF Radios 1 and 2: 4.00am With Radio 2. 10.00pm With Radio 1. 12.00-4.00am With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 Classical Record Review. 7.45 Network UK. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 After Hours. 8.30 Thirty-Minute Theatre. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Alexis Korner's Rhythm and Blues. 10.00 Discovery. 10.30 A Night to Remember. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 Letter from London. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Women of the World. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 1.30 Network UK. 1.45 A Jolly Good Show. 2.30 Sherlock Holmes. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Talking About Music. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Meridian. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 9.15 Letter from London. 9.25 Paperback Choice. 9.30 Musical Memories of Evelyn Barbirolli. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Scotland This Week. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 After Hours. 11.30 Meridian. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 A Jolly Good Show. 1.15 Outlook: News Summary. 1.45 Report on Religion. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 The Bach Family. 2.30 Sherlock Holmes. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News About Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 Discovery. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Waveguide. 5.45 The World Today.

All times in GMT

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN.
† Stereo. ★Black and white. (r) Repeat.

BBC 1 Wales: 9.25am-9.55 Lifeboat. 12.57pm-1.00 News of Wales headlines. 3.48-3.50 News of Wales headlines. 5.55 Wales Today. 12.05am News and weather. Scotland: 12.55pm-1.00 The Scottish News. 5.55 Scotland: Sixty Minutes. 12.05am News and weather. Northern Ireland: 12.57pm-1.00 Northern Ireland News. 3.48-3.50 Northern Ireland News. 5.55 Scene Around Six. 12.05am News and weather. England: 5.55pm Regional news magazines. 12.10am Close.

S4C Starts: 2.00pm Hwnt ac Yma. 2.20 Pfalabalam. 2.35 Y Ganrif Hon. 2.55 Interval. 3.05 Face the Press. 3.30 Motor Show. 4.00 Union World. 4.25 Mary Tyler Moore Show. 4.55 Pictiwrs Bach. 5.05 Bilidowcar. 5.30 Buck Rogers. 6.30 No Problem! 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.20 Cefn Gwlad. 8.00 Elinor. 8.35 Y Byd ar Bedwar. 9.25 St Elsewhere. 10.25 Snwcer. 10.55 Eleventh Hour. 12.05am Closedown.

TVS As London except: 9.25am-9.30 Farming Brief. 12.30pm-1.00 Crown Court. 1.20 News. 1.30 Afternoon Club. 1.35 People Like Us. 2.10 A Country Practice. 3.10 Newsbreak. 3.20 Sullivans. 3.50-4.00 A–Z. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00 Coast to Coast. 6.40 Crossroads. 7.05 Emmerdale Farm. 7.35-9.00 Film: Call to Danger (Peter Graves). 11.30 Devlin Connexion. 12.30am Company, Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

ANGLIA As London except: 12.30pm Gardens for All. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.30-3.00 That's Hollywood. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.40 Crossroads. 7.05 Bygones Special. 7.35-9.00 Film: Call to Danger. Thriller. 11.30 Mysteries of Edgar Wallace*. 12.40am Tuesday Topic, Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Crown Court. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00 Miracles take Longer. 2.30 Agatha Christie Hour. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Mr and Mrs. 6.00 Crossroads. 6.25 News. 7.05 Emmerdale Farm. 7.35-9.00 Film: Call to Danger (Peter Graves). 11.30 Quentin E Deverill. 12.30am Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.30-3.30 We'll Meet Again. 5.15-5.45 Joanie Loves Chachi. 6.00 Lookaround. 6.40 Crossroads. 7.05 Emmerdale Farm. 7.35-9.00 Call to Danger. 11.30 Brass in Concert. 12.15am News, Closedown.

HTV WEST As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 My Life. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.30-3.30 Trapper John. 5.15-5.45 Beverly Hillbillies* 6.00 News. 6.40 Crossroads. 7.05 Emmerdale Farm. 7.35-9.00 Call to Danger. Thriller. 11.30 Thin Lizzie Concert. 12.25am Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.40 Wales at Six.

TYNE TEES As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News and Lookaround. 2.30-3.30 We'll Meet Again. 5.15-5.45 Looks Familiar Special. 6.00 News. 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25 Northern Life. 7.05 Emmerdale Farm, 7.35-9.00 Film: Call to Danger (Peter Graves). 11.30 That's Hollywood. 12.00 Jesus, Light of the World, Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Mr and Mrs. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.30-3.30 Agatha Christie Hour. 5.15-5.45 Music Micro Mission. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.30 Herbs for All. 7.00 Mr Smith. 7.30-9.00 Film: Call to Danger. 11.30 Timeless Land. 12.25am Closedown.

TSW As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Mr and Mrs. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.30-3.30 Agatha Christie Hour. 5.15 Gus Honeybun. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Today South West. 6.25 Televiews. 6.35 Vintage Quiz. 7.05 Mr Smith. 7.35-9.00 Film: Call to Danger. Thriller. 11.30 Timeless Land. 12.25 Postscript, Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 9.20am-9.30 Day Ahead. 1.20pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 2.30 Paint Along With Nancy. 3.00-3.00 Nature of Things. 5.15-5.45 Mr and Mrs. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.30 Cartoon. 6.40 Crossroads. 7.05 Emmerdale Farm. 7.35-9.00 Film: Call to Danger. Thriller. 11.30 News, Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 9.25am-9.30 First Thing. 12.30pm-1.00 That's Hollywood. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.30 Protectors. 3.00-3.30 Preview. 6.00 North Tonight. 6.40 Crossroads. 7.05 All Kinds of Country. 7.35-9.00 Film: Call to Danger. Thriller. 11.30 Mysteries of Edgar Wallace* 12.30am News, Closedown.

SCOTTISH As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 about Gaelic. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.30-3.00 That's my Boy. 5.10 Job Spot. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.35 What's Your Problem? 7.05 Take the High Road. 7.35-9.00 Film: Call to Danger. 11.30 Late Call. 11.35 Studio. 12.20 Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: 1.20pm Granada Reports. 1.30-2.00 Exchange Flags. 2.30-3.00 Protectors. 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00 This is Your Right. 6.05 Crossroads. 6.30 Granada Reports. 7.05 Emmerdale Farm. 7.35-9.00 Film: Call to Danger (Peter Graves). 11.30 Mysteries of Edgar Wallac* 12.40am Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 9 to 5. 1.20 News. 1.30-2.00 Calendar. 3.00-3.30 Family Trees. 5.15-5.45 Survival. 6.00 Calendar. 6.40 Crossroads. 7.05 Emmerdale Farm. 7.35-9.00 Film: Call to Danger. Thriller. 11.30 Mysteries of Edgar Wallace*. 12.35 Closedown.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz 1500m: VHF -92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

6% pay rise call for Civil Service

By David Felton
Labour Correspondent

A government survey of pay increases for white-collar workers is expected to show that Civil Servants will need rises of about 6 per cent – double the Government guidelines – to keep pace, according to union officials.

The survey, which is due to be completed later this month, is being conducted by the Office of Manpower Economics and will be used in this year's pay negotiations covering more than 500,000 white collar Civil Servants.

Unions leaders have started a campaign to alert their members to the likely outcome of the survey and they believe there will be strong resistance if the Goverment ignores its recommendations, in the wake of the GCHQ affair.

The Society of Civil and Public Servants, the second largest Civil Service union, commissioned its own survey from the Labour Research Department which showed that pay rises for white collar staff in the period from 1st March to January had ranged between 4.5 per cent and 7.5 per cent.

However, they argue that the average falls between 5.5 per cent and 6 per cent and they expect that to edge towards the 6 per cent mark as January settlements in the financial sectors are taken into account.

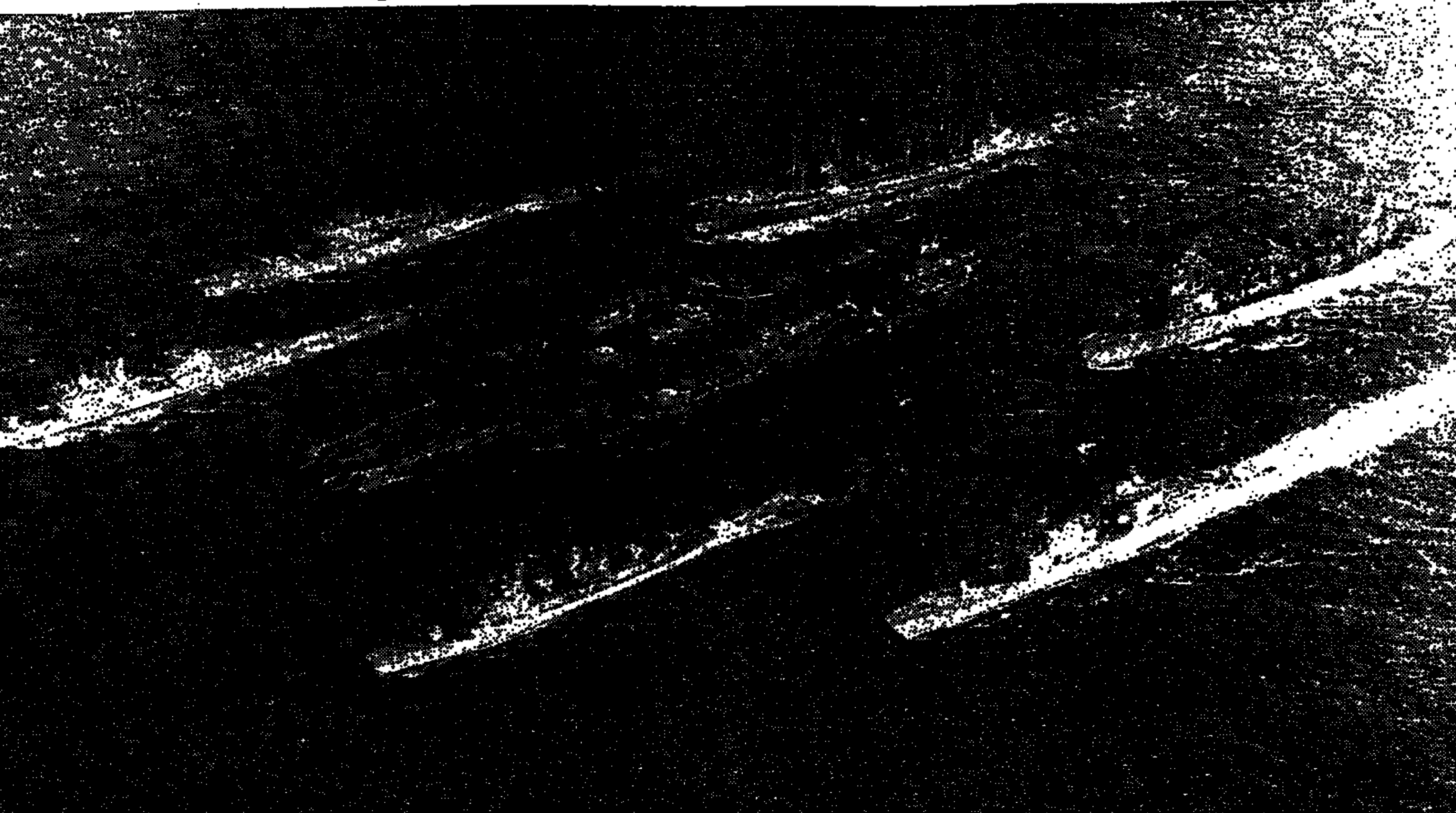
The unions are also expected to argue that the bald examination of movements in pay rates does not give a full picture of earnings increases, and up to a further 1 per cent would be need to be added to take account of bonus earnings in private industry.

An agreement between the unions and the Treasury allows for the pay survey to be used in the pay negotiations "to inform but not constrain" and the unions are working on the basis that it will at least have an embarrassment value against the Government.

The unions survey shows a slight tailing off in the level of increases and officials expect the Treasury to emphasize that factor.

The Government may also propose to the unions that an increase above the 3 per cent guideline could be available if there was agreement on savings in other areas, such as manpower cuts.

Meeting trouble midway in the Gulf



The powerful American task force patrolling the Hormuz Straits between Iran and the Gulf States to honour President Reagan's promise to keep Middle East oil supplies flowing to the West has already had several brushes with Iranian forces.

The aircraft carrier Midway and its formidable escort (above) have patrolled up to 300 miles up the Gulf, more than half way to the Iranian oil island of Kharg, seeing off with tracer bullets and flares an Iranian reconnaissance aircraft that ventured too close. The task force has declared a "no-go" area of five miles round itself for both aircraft and ships, and the Midway has also engaged in a running battle of words with an Iranian frigate which penetrated the zone.

However, in spite of Iranian threats to close the straits to all shipping, the oil is still flowing

Oil giant talks tactics in £10bn takeover fight

By William Kay, City Editor

Trading in the stock of Gulf Oil was halted in New York yesterday morning as the board met to consider possible takeover bids of as much as $15,000m (£10,000m).

However, the meeting broke up at lunchtime and dealings resumed at 1.40pm, local time. The price rose quickly by $1.50 to $71.

Gulf faces an unwanted approach from Mesa Petroleum, led by Mr T. Boone Pickens jr. The board has been considering other options, including a takeover by Atlantic Richfield, former owner of *The Observer*, which could create an oil, gas, coal and chemical group worth about $30,000.

Other bids are reportedly being put together by Standard Oil of California (Socal) and Allied Corporation.

However, an outright takeover could be blocked by the Justice Department in Washington. Recently, Texaco bought Getty Oil for $11,000m, and another big deal could lead the Government to *think* that the oil industry was falling into too few hands.

Two other possibilities on the Gulf board's agenda would avoid such fears. One is a so-called leveraged buyout, whereby Gulf's own assets would be used as collateral for loans, which Gulf's executives could draw down to make a bid

The other tactic would be for Gulf to buy in its own stock. If, as many analysts believe, Gulf's assets are worth considerably more than the combined stock price, a buy-in would enhance the value of the remaining shares.

Miners' strike called over pit closures

Continued from page 1

Mr MacGregor has a plan to close up to 70 pits.

In view of the worsening situation in Yorkshire and the demands for action over the Lancashire pits, the NUM executive will be under strong pressure on Thursday to step up industrial action. Mr Scargill and his suporters have been reluctant to do this because they believe the overtime ban is effective.

The recent statements from Mr MacGregor on the seriousness of the situation would seem to suggest that the action is beginning to bite into coal board finances and that there are fears of a boom in imports of foreign coal to supply domestic users.

Photograph, page 2

Thatcher show stays on the road, says Biffen

Continued from page 1

"Of course they would find it reassuring to be out of the situation. We have had one or two highly-publicized problems. But I don't think there is any basic unease about the broad direction of economic policy."

Mr Biffin said that in the last Parliament. Mrs Margaret Thatcher's brand of radical Toryism had shifted the centre ground of politics so far that the Labour left would not be able to reverse or haul it back again.

But he adds: "I don't think the same sense of direction and commitment can easily be carried forward for a second parliament, though the broad thrust must be that of extending the economic policies of 1979-1983.

"I think that the policies we now have simply have to be capable of being expressed in a tone which is both evangelical and yet appealing to the deeply instinctive Tory desire to consolidate and preserve the factors that are congenial

"We have the prospect of doing it against an economy which is in somewhat better shape, though nobody's going to get euphoric about it. But when you think what we did against a recessionary background, I am quite certain that the Thatcher show can be kept firmly on the road."

Meanwhile, Whitehall mounted a blanket defence, brushing aside criticism of a long list of issues from MP's pay and capital punishment through to GCHQ and energy prices.

One Whitehall source said that the Government had no intention of abdicating in favour of Fleet Street.

Oman silence, page 2

Letter from Tyre

Business as usual for the militias

"Anyone who is not confused here does not really understand what is going on", says the notice in the office of Mr Timor Goksell, spokesman for the 5,800-member United Nations force that has been struggling to keep the peace in southern Lebanon since 1978.

It is a salutary statement, borne out by the bewildering patchwork of local militias, some no bigger than a football team, that have sprung up since the 1982 invasion by Israel – whose subsequent pact with the Lebanese Government is now in tatters – and the expulsion of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which had ruled with its own brand of gun law.

The atmosphere of unreality is reinforced by a way of life in which shops displaying the latest Paris fashions and vintage wines at knock-down prices are found amid buildings still bearing the scars of modern warfare and suffering regular water and electricity breakdowns.

Nowhere is the confusion greater than in the former Phoenician port of Tyre, where one of the new militias now supported by Israel is led by a Muslim who used to enjoy officer status in the PLO, and where three or four coasters laden with contraband from Cyprus are regularly to be found outside the harbour.

Since access to Beirut was severely restricted by Israel's control of the Awali River bridges, the range and volume of smuggled goods have increased greatly, and now include even the most sophisticated video recorders. The going price for a carton of 200 French cigarettes is just over £1.

According to UN officers (whose area does not include Tyre or its 35,000 predominantly Muslim inhabitants), the man selected by the Israelis to run the harbour is the same one chosen in earlier days by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, whose gunmen used to hold sway in the heavily bombed port area. The dues extracted from the smugglers finance the militias, which appear to be the most flourishing local business.

The militiamen approved by the Israelis carry cards permitting them to hold their deadly assortment of personal weapons and are paid about £130 a month. They are grouped under the broad title of "The National Guard" and are designed to resist any attempts by PLO men to return.

UN officers are sceptical about whether the new Muslim militias around Tyre would hold together if the Israelis left. "What they are doing is basically a business. It is primarily a matter of economics", one officer said.

On the outskirts of the city, the spot where the Israeli security headquarters was destroyed by a suicide bomber last November is now ringed by a wall of earth some 30ft high, behind which the tops of some army tents are just visible. With good reason, all Israeli troops in the region – a favourite ambush spot – look nervous and trigger-happy, their non-tracked vehicles usually being driven at breakneck speed.

The Levantine spirit of the residents – most of whom say they want to be allowed to get on with business without outside interference – is seen at the incongruously named Elissa Beach Club.

It was reopened by its owner, Mr Mustapha Arab, soon after the Israeli invasion, having been closed since 1976 because of PLO threats. Last year, its restaurant overlooking the Mediterranean was expanded to increase the seating to 500, and a regular Saturday night dance was instituted.

But the investment appears to have been in vain: during my stay only one table in the cavernous restaurant was occupied, and the only other guest was a man from *The Daily Telegraph*.

Mr Arab, who looks older than his 33 years, spoke optimistically of plans to install an international telephone line – but his finances do not even run to a change of sheets or towels between guests. A member of Amal, the Shia Muslim militia, assured us that his men would permit the consumption of alcohol to continue at the well-stocked but deserted bar.

"The breaking of bottles in the Commodore Hotel in West Beirut was a mistake we have already corrected internally", he explained with a look which left little room for doubt about the fate of the individual militiamen involved.

Christopher Walker

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen holds an Investiture at Buckingham Palace, 11.

The Prince and Princess of Wales attend a dinner given by the Jewish Welfare Board to mark the 125th Anniversary of its foundation at the Guildhall, London, 7.40.

Princess Anne, visits the Red Cross camp for disabled people at Pontins Holiday Camp, Weymouth, Dorset, 12.15; and later visits the new Royal British Legion Headquarters in Dorchester, Dorset, 2.20.

New exhibition

Euryl Stevens' paintings: Museum & Art Gallery, The Green, Stafford; Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4 (closed Sun and Mon; ends April 21).

Last chance to see

Printmakers Circle, an exhibition of screen prints and lino cuts, Tunbridge Wells Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Mount Pleasant, Tunbridge Wells: Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30 (ends today).

Music

Concert by the University Ensemble, Reardon Smith Lecure Theatre, Park Place, Cardiff, 7.30.

Recital by the Classical Piano Trio, University Hall, Bath, 1.35.

Piano recital by Joanna Leach, Chichester Cathedral, Chichester, 1.10.

Concert by the Balby Carr Wind Band, Bentley Methodist Church, Doncaster, 7.30.

Concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Bournemouth Sinfonietta, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth, 7.30.

Organ recital by Ronald Frost, St Ann's Church, Manchester, 12.45.

Talks, lectures

Chemistry with chips by Professor A. K. Covington, Chemistry Lecture Room B, 4.20; Urban topography and environment in the Roman world by Professor J. S. Wache, Bennett Lecture Theatre 1, 5.15, both at the University of Leicester, Leicester.

Diderot in Retrospect by Professor Robert Niklaus, Elvet Riverside Lecture Rooms, New Elvet, 5.30; *Dynamic Landscapes* by Dr Chris Baines, Scarbrough Lecture Theatre, Dept of Chemistry, Science Laboratories, 7.15, both at University of Durham, Durham City.

Early Medieval Ivories and Romanesque Art by Professor Peter Lasko, University of Bristol Perry Art Lectures, Reception Room, Wills Memorial Building, Queens Road, Bristol, 5.15.

General

The Great St Nicholas Pancake Race, Churchyard, Parish Church, Pierhead, Liverpool, 12.30.

Exhibitions in progress

Recent paintings, drawings and collages by Lys Hansen: "Cover Story": artwork from the Women's Press: Theatre Graphics by Richard Bird; all at Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow; Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30 (ends March 9).

The artist and the Castle; Newport Museum and Art Gallery, John Frost Square, Newport, Gwent; Mon to Thurs 10 to 5.30, Fri 10 to 4.30, Sat 9.30 to 4 (ends March 10).

Etchings by Bevis Sale; Prescot Museum, 34 Church Street, Prescot, Lancashire; Tues to Sat 10 to 5 (until March 10).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,371

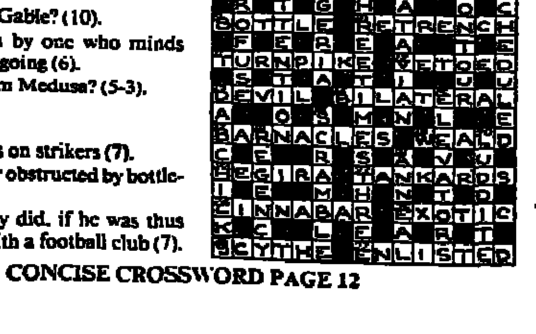
ACROSS

1 Unconventional miss, stagy too (8).
5 Brood about the contract player's transfer (6).
8 Pageant ends after walk by celebrity (10).
9 Oil area may go with the stream (4).
10 Signal that lady is not available, even on the phone? (10,4).
11 He acts for another when things get rough (5-2).
13 Number one, Regent Street, perhaps? No way! (7).
15 It may be winter, as Mrs Thurber said on marrying? (7).
18 He makes a charge for a small volume consumer (7).
21 Impressive production of letters of identity (14).
22 In Tripoli, onion stew's the answer (4).
23 Topped by Gable? (10).
24 Point taken by one who minds where he is going (6).
25 A beam from Medusa? (5-3).

DOWN

1 Rains blows on strikers (7).
2 Timekeeper obstructed by bottleneck (9).
3 He probably did, if he was thus involved with a football club (7).
4 Having made a slam, he is given the money (7).
5 Being in two minds, Tom takes a pick-me-up (9).
6 Careless, losing midwinter dressing-gown (7).
7 Bucolic, perhaps, but equally well-versed in this (7).
12 Perhaps Gray's going on to ring the landlord (9).
14 He makes a great fist at pipework (3-6).
16 Boy called twice with a bit of fodder (7).
17 Opening to a passage in Orpheus in the Underworld? (7).
18 Carrier blows up (7).
19 Agreement about form of sonnet (7).
20 Dress lazily without bending (7).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,370



CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 12

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Expenditure White Paper.

Lords (2.30): Housing and Building Control Bill, committee, second day.

National Day

The West African state of Ghana today celebrates the twenty-seventh anniversary of its independence from Britain. On March 6, 1957, Ghana became the first British colony in Africa to attain full independence under the leadership of Dr Kwame Nkrumah, who later became the country's first president.

Bond winners

The winning number in the March draw for a £250,000 Premium Bond prize is: 16KS 327983 (the winner comes from Manchester).

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending February 26:

ITV

1 Coronation Street (Wed), 17.25
2 Coronation Street (Mon), 16.10
3 The A-Team, ITV, 15.80
4 3-2-1, Yorkshire, 15 45
5 Child's Play, LWT, 15.30
6 Duty Free, Yorkshire, 15.00
6= This is Your Life, Thames, 15.00
8 Wish You Were Here, Thames, 14.75
9 Minder, Thames, 14.70
10 The Other 'Arf, Central, 14.05

BBC 1

1 Dallas, 11.30
2 That's Life, 10.75
3 Wogan, 10.65
4 The Living Planet, 10.60
5 Holiday, 10.45
6 District Nurse, 10.40
7 Nine O'Clock News (Thu), 10.30
8 Diana, 9.90
9 British Rock & Pop Awards, 9.70
9= Top of the Pops, 9.70

BBC 2

1 Alas Smith & Jones, 5.40
2 Call My Bluff, 4.20
2= Your Life in Their Hands, 4.20
4 Murder Ahoy, 3.95
5 Leo, 3.85
6 M.A.S.H., 3.80
7 Geoffrey Smith's World of Flowers, 3.75
8 Dear Ladies, 3.50
8= Gardeners' World, 3.50
10 My Brilliant Career, 3.40

Channel 4

1 Treasure Hunt, 3.20
2 Brookside (Wed), 2.80
2= Cheers, 2.80
4 Brookside (Tues), 2.60
5 A Boy in the Bush, 2.35
6 The Incredible Sarah, 2.20
6= Rage in Heaven, 2.20
8 The Lady is a Tramp, 2.10
9 St Elsewhere, 2.0
10 Tennis: Davis Cup (Sun, 14.00), 1 95

S4C

In Welsh:
1 Pobol y Cwm, BBC, 82,000
2 Dechrau Canu/Canmol, BBC, 70,000
3 Edrych Trwy/Camerau, BBC, 69,000
4 Y Byd Yn El Le, HTV, 50,000
5 Rhagln Hywl Gwynfryn, BBC, 42,000

In English:
1 Buck Rogers, 140,000
2 Brookside (Wed), 86,000
3 Bewitched, 81,000
4 Brookside (Thu), 79,000
5 Mask of Dimitrios, 71,000

Breakfast television: The average weekly figures for audiences at peak times (with figures in parenthesis showing the reach – the numbers of people who viewed for at least eight minutes). BBC 1: *Breakfast Time*, Mon-Fri 1.3m (6.2m). TV-am: *Good Morning Britain*, Mon-Fri 1.6m (5.9m). Sat-Sun (Mon), 1.3m, 0.9m (3.2m, 7.3m).
Broadcasters' Audience Research Board.

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.62	1.54
Austria Sch	28.20	26.60
Belgium Fr	83.50	79.50
Canada $	1.91	1.84
Denmark Kr	14.55	13.85
Finland Mkk	8.62	8.22
France Fr	12.12	11.62
Germany DM	3.90	3.72
Greece Dr	162.00	152.00
Hongkong $	11.80	11.20
Ireland Pt	1.29	1.23
Italy Lira	2450.00	2350.00
Japan Yen	347.00	331.00
Netherlands Gld	4.48	4.26
Norway Kr	11.55	10.95
Portugal Esc	200.00	190.00
South Africa Rd	1.95	1.81
Spain Pta	224.50	215.50
Sweden Kr	11.98	11.38
Switzerland Fr	3.27	3.10
USA $	1.53	1.48
Yugoslavia Dnr	208.00	198.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 342.6.

London: The *FT* Index closed down 6.3 at 832.6.

Roads

Midlands: A427: Traffic signals on Market Harborough – Lutterworth road at Lubenham, Leicestershire. A449: Traffic signals on Worcester – Malvern road, near Powick. A45: Roadworks on Coventry – Daventry road at Fosse Crossing, Warwickshire.

North: A61: Marsh Way, Northgate, Wakefield, narrows at junction of Marsh Way, Northgate roundabout, West Yorkshire. A534: Single lane traffic in Orwer Road, Winterley, Sandbach; traffic lights, delays. A689: Investigation into bridge structure at Cowshill Bridge, co Durham; temporary lights.

Wales and West: A381/A385: Temporary traffic lights at Brutus Bridge, Bridgetown Hill, Totnes. M4: Lane closures for bridge inspection and repairs between junction 21 and junction 22 across Severn Bridge; both carriageways affected, also off-peak overnight closure. A55: Temporary signals on Bangor – Colwyn road at Conway, Gwynedd.

Scotland: M47/M73: Lighting column installation on the slip roads to and from the M73 at junction 6/1; intermittent lane closures. A94: Single lane traffic with lights between Meigle and Coupar, Angus.

Information supplied by AA

Anniversaries

Births: Michelangelo, Caprese, Italy, 1475; Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Durham, 1806; Deaths: Francis Beaumont, dramatist (with John Fletcher), London, 1616; Louisa May Alcott, author of *Little Women*, Boston, Massachusetts, 1888; Gottlieb Daimler, pioneer of motor cars, Cannstat, Germany, 1900; John Redmond, Irish nationalist, London, 1918; John Philip Sousa, bandmaster and composer of military music, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932.

The papers

See how Senator Garry Hart is giving Walter Mondale a run for his money in the American Democratic Party primary elections, the Daily Star says. "Twice now, Mondale, former Vice-President to Jimmy Carter and the man with trade union backing, has been beaten by Hart – last week in New Hampshire, now in Maine. That has to make him the first favourite to run against Ronald Reagan in November – even though there are plenty of states still to vote before the nomination convention in July. It is often said that only a rich man can afford to run for President in America. Men like Walter Mondale command huge campaign funds. Yet Garry Hart is not a wealthy man, nor did he start the race with big cash backing."

The Daily Mirror points out that although Whitehall has recently carried out a secret inquiry into the progress being made towards open government, full details won't be disclosed until January 1, 2014. It says: "As part of the script of *Yes Minister* that would be funny. As a statement of fact, it is depressing. We live in a secret society."

Weather

An anticyclone will be slow moving near SW Britain with weak troughs near north Scotland and SE England.

6am to midnight

London, SE, central S England, E, W Midlands: Sunny intervals. Mainly dry; wind variable light: max temp 11-13C (52-55F).

East Anglia, E, central N England: Cloudy, a little drizzle in places at first, suny intervals later; wind W light: max temp 10-12C (50-54F).

Channel Islands, SW, NW England, S, N, Wales: Mainly cloudy, a little drizzle in places, some bright intervals; wind W moderate; max temp 9-10C (48-50F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Mainly cloudy, a little drizzle in places, some bright intervals; wind W moderate; max temp 9-10C (48-50F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen: Sunny periods, mainly dry; wind moderate or fresh; max temp 10-12C (50-54F).

Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland: Cloudy, occasional rain and drizzle; wind W fresh or strong, locally gale in exposed places; max temp 8C (45-46F).

Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals, scattered showers; wind W strong locally gale; max temp 7C (45F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Mostly dry with sunny intervals; cloudy at times in E with occasional rain, perhaps turning to sleet later in SE. Near or above normal, becoming colder in N and E.

SEA PASSAGES: S. North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind NW mainly light; sea smooth. English Channel (E): Wind variable or light northerly; sea smooth. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind variable and light: sea smooth.

Sun rises: 6.35 am — Sun sets: 5.50 pm
Moon rises: 6.10 am — Moon sets: 9.51 pm
First quarter: March 10.

Lighting-up time

London 6.20 pm to 6.03 am
Bristol 6.30 pm to 6.12 am
Edinburgh 6.28 pm to 6.19 am
Manchester 6.27 pm to 6.13 am
Penzance 6.43 pm to 6.23 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; dr, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	c	10	50	Guernsey	c	9	48
Birmingham	c	11	52	Inverness	f	10	50
Blackpool	c	8	46	Jersey	c	10	50
Bristol	c	11	52	London	dr	10	50
Cardiff	c	10	50	Manchester			
Edinburgh	s	10	50	Newcastle			
Glasgow	c	11	52	Ronaldsway	c	11	52

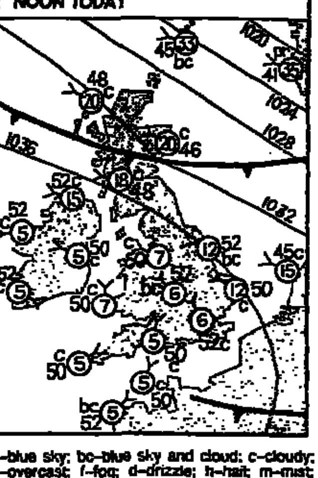
London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11C (52F), min 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F). Humidity: 6 pm, 89 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.02in. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,032.6 millibars, rising. 1,000 millibars=29.53in.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Plymouth, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, Thanet, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Lowestoft, 0.20in; highest sunshine: Leuchars, 6.6hrs.

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded Symbols are on advancing edge



b–blue sky; bc–blue sky and cloud; c–cloudy; o–overcast; f–fog; d–drizzle; h–hail; m–mist; r–rain; s–snow; th–thunderstorm; p–showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled, temperatures fahrenheit.

High tides

TODAY

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3.52	7.0	4.16	7.0
Aberdeen	3.24	4.0	3.19	4.1
Avonmouth	9.17	12.8	9.29	12.6
Belfast	1.02	3.0	1.13	3.2
Cardiff	9.02	11.6	9.14	11.6
Devonport	7.41	5.3	7.55	5.1
Dover	12.50	6.4	1.03	6.2
Falmouth	7.11	5.1	7.26	4.9
Glasgow	2.57	4.5	3.10	4.6
Harwich	1.41	3.8	2.05	3.7
Holyhead	12.11	5.2	12.24	5.4
Hull	8.25	7.1	8.33	7.4
Ilfracombe	8.02	8.6	8.13	8.6
Leith	4.40	5.1	4.48	5.3
Liverpool	1.06	8.9	1.21	9.1
Lowestoft	11.49	2.2	11.42	2.4
Margate	1.54	4.6	2.18	4.5
Milford Haven	8.18	6.8	8.30	6.6
Newquay	7.09	6.8	7.21	6.6
Oban	7.44	3.9	7.49	3.7
Penzance	6.43	5.4	6.59	5.2
Portland	8.50	2.0	9.10	1.8
Portsmouth	1.26	4.4	1.35	4.3
Shoreham	1.02	6.0	1.14	5.9
Southampton	12.48	4.4	12.53	4.4
Swansea	8.25	9.1	8.33	8.9
Tees	5.46	5.0	5.49	5.3
Walton-on-Naze	1.37	4.0	1.59	4.0

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain

	Sun hr	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	3.7	-	11	52	Sunny pm	Southport	0.2	.06	12	54	Cloudy
Bridlington	3.4	.01	11	52	Sunny pm	Morecambe	0.8	-	8	46	Cloudy
Cromer	0.7	.10	80	46	Bright	Douglas	0.3	-	11	52	Bright am
Lowestoft	-	.20	10	50	Cloudy	London (Ctr)	-	.01	11	52	Cloudy
Clacton	-	.02	10	50	Cloudy	B'ham (Airpt)	0.1	-	11	52	Cloudy
Margate	-	.04	7	45	Drizzle	Bristol (Ctr)	0.4	.01	13	55	Cloudy
Folkestone	-	.06	11	52	Dull	Cardiff (Ctr)	1.2	-	12	54	Cloudy
Hastings	-	.08	10	50	Cloudy	Anglesey	0.2	.01	10	50	Cloudy
Eastbourne	-	.08	11	52	Cloudy	B'pool (Airpt)	0.2	-	9	48	Cloudy
Brighton	-	.01	11	52	Cloudy	Manchester	1.1	.01	12	54	Bright pm
Worthing	-	-	12	54	Cloudy	Nottingham	0.3	-	12	54	Bright pm
Littlehmptn	1.2	-01	12	54	Bright am	N'cstl-n-Tyne	3.7	-	11	52	Bright
Bognor R	0.7	.01	11	52	Cloudy	Carlisle	3.3	.02	11	52	Bright
Southsea	0.6	-	12	54	Cloudy	Eskdalemuir	3.1	-	11	52	Cloudy
Shanklin	-	-	-	-	-	Prestwick	0.7	-	10	50	Cloudy
Bournemth	0.3	.01	12	54	Cloudy	Glasgow	1.9	-	11	52	Cloudy
Poole	-	.05	12	54	Cloudy	Tiree	1.1	-	11	52	Cloudy
Guernsey	4.1	-	12	54	Bright	Stornoway	0.8	-	11	52	Cloudy
Scilly Isles	-	-	-	-	-	Lerwick	1.6	.05	8	45	Showers
Newquay	6.2	-	14	57	Sunny	Wick	2.5	-	11	52	Bright
Ilfracombe	5.7	.07	12	54	Sunny	Edinburgh	6.2	-	12	54	Bright
Tenby	0.3	-	14	57	Bright	Aldergrove	0.7	.03	12	54	Fog am

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud, f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	s	13	55	Copenhgn	f	7	45	Majorca	s	13	55	Rio de Jan*	s	28	82
Akrotiri	s	19	66	Corfu	c	11	52	Malaga	f	14	57	Rome	s	13	55
Alexandria	f	22	70	Dallas*		17	63	Malta				Salzburg	c	1	34
Algiers				Dublin	dr	9	48	Melbourne	s	27	81	Sao Paulo*	c	29	84
Amsterdam	c	7	45	Dubrovnik	s	10	50	Mexico C	s	19	66	S Francisco*	s	19	66
Athens	c	15	59	Faro	f	15	59	Miami	s	22	72	Santiago*	s	29	84
Bahrain				Florence	f	11	52	Milan	s	10	50	Seoul	f	2	36
Barbados	f	29	84	Frankfurt	c	4	39	Montreal*	s	-18	18	Singapore	f	29	84
Barcelona	s	11	52	Funchal	f	18	64	Moscow	c	0	32	Stockholm	s	4	39
Beirut	s	17	63	Geneva	s	3	37	Munich	c	0	32	Strasbourg	s	4	39
Belgrade	f	2	36	Gibraltar	c	14	57	Nairobi	c	27	81	Sydney	s	23	73
Berlin	c	2	36	Helsinki	dr	-1	30	Naples	f	10	50	Tangier	f	15	59
Bermuda*	c	20	68	Hongkong	c	18	64	New Delhi	s	24	75	Tel Aviv	s	21	70
Biarritz	s	9	48	Innsbruck	s	3	37	New York*	f	2	36	Tenerife	f	22	72
Boulogne	dr	7	45	Istanbul	c	16	61	Nice	s	15	59	Tokyo		8	46
Bordeaux	c	9	48	Jeddah	s	32	90	Oslo	s	2	36	Toronto	c	5	23
Brussels	c	6	43	Jo'burg	f	27	81	Ottawa				Tunis	th	8	46
Budapest	c	5	41	Karachi	s	30	86	Paris	c	5	41	Valencia	s	14	57
Buen Aires*	f	30	86	Las Palmas	f	25	77	Peking	s	5	41	Vancouver	f	7	45
Cairo	s	22	72	Lisbon	s	12	54	Perth	f	27	81	Venice	s	8	46
Cape Tn	s	22	72	Locarno	s	11	52	Prague	f	1	34	Vienna	f	3	37
C'blanca	s	18	64	L Angeles*		17	63	Reykjavik	c	3	37	Warsaw	c	1	34
Chicago*	c	1	34	Luxembg	f	3	37	Rhodes	f	17	63	Washington*	f	4	39
Cologne	c	3	37	Madrid	s	7	45	Riyadh	s	33	91	Zurich	s	1	34

* denotes Saturday's figures are latest available